

THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



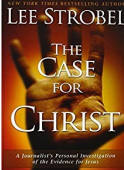
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**




Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

CONGREGATORS

BIRTHDAYS

It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be **Friday, September 14, 1 pm** at the Log Jam. **Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.**

Linda Olds  
Linda Gooley  
Alex Reed  
Kay Kulp  
Julie Wilkinson  
Thea Oatman  
Boyd Tyler  
Ellen Robinson  
Charlene Avery  
Quinn Annis  
Sue Ann Cole  
Connie Dible  
Pat Reed



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

BOTTLES AND CANS

PHOTO PERMISSION

Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised **\$209.10** for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised **\$148.30**. We still need another **\$60.80** to meet last year's total. **Let's beat last year's total!**




If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to [photos@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org)

Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

PAPERGATOR




Save the date! **October 28<sup>th</sup>** is our annual community **Trunk or Treat** event.

We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!

Start planning your **SPOOKTACULAR** ideas for decorating your trunk today!

The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <http://papergatorrecycling.com/>

Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received **\$95.60**. **Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!**



FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.

Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.





July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School




SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Arnold  
4775 Village Drive, Apt.#224  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**

# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.

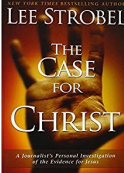
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

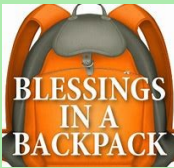
Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p>		
<div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>					
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Barclay  
15600 W. State Road  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



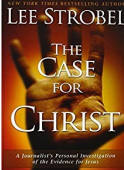
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p>		
<div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>					
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

Part-time Pastor Options

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

Maintenance Issue

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

Exit Interview

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Bouck  
1132 Seymour St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



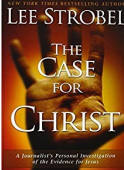
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Briggs  
817 North Clinton, #718  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



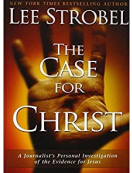
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Brown  
421 West Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



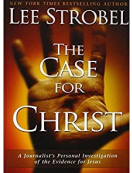
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Brown  
10629 Eaton Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p>		
<div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>					
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
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Brougher  
11716 Silverspring Dr.  
Dewitt, MI 48820

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



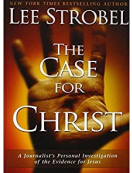
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Buitendorp  
825 E. Scott St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p>		
<div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>					
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Burt  
905 E. Scott St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



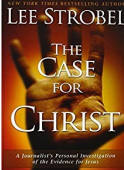
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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Clark  
215 W. Main St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

Part-time Pastor Options

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

Maintenance Issue

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

Exit Interview

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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Cole  
9444 W. Grand River  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**




Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

CONGREGATORS

BIRTHDAYS

It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be **Friday, September 14, 1 pm** at the Log Jam. **Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.**

Linda Olds  
Linda Gooley  
Alex Reed  
Kay Kulp  
Julie Wilkinson  
Thea Oatman  
Boyd Tyler  
Ellen Robinson  
Charlene Avery  
Quinn Annis  
Sue Ann Cole  
Connie Dible  
Pat Reed



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

BOTTLES AND CANS

PHOTO PERMISSION

Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised **\$209.10** for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised **\$148.30**. We still need another **\$60.80** to meet last year's total. **Let's beat last year's total!**




If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to [photos@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org)

Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

PAPERGATOR




Save the date! **October 28<sup>th</sup>** is our annual community **Trunk or Treat** event.

We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!

Start planning your **SPOOKTACULAR** ideas for decorating your trunk today!

The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <http://papergatorrecycling.com/>

Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received **\$95.60**. **Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!**



FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.

Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Cosper  
201 W. Lincoln St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



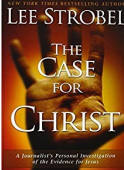
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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Cornwell  
2316 W. Holmes  
Lansing, MI 48911

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



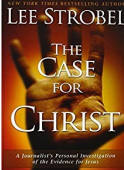
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

Part-time Pastor Options

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

Maintenance Issue

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

Exit Interview

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Cranson  
124 High St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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Phone 517-627-2336  
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FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

Curtis  
104 4th Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Dennis  
11827 Woodspointe Dr.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



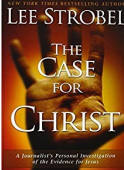
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Dible  
11668 Woodspointe Dr.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to photos@grandledgeucc.org</p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
Fax: 517- 627- 4539  
Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



English  
4922 Palisade Drive  
Lansing, MI 48917

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



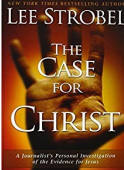
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
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Fernandez  
8335 Doe Pass  
Lansing, MI 48917

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



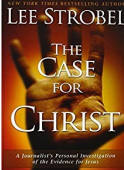
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Freeman  
16913 Erins Way  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Girvin  
1046 Clubhouse Dr.  
Lake Isabella, MI 48893

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<div><div></div><div><p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p><p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p></div><div></div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<div><div><p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p><p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p></div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Harmon  
12410 Hopcraft Rd.  
Onondaga, MI 49264

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



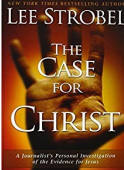
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Haueter  
8794 Hartell Rd.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



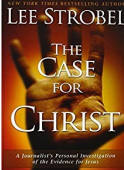
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Hoggard  
1036 Northway Drive  
Charlotte, MI 48813

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



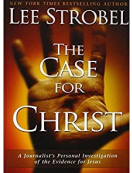
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.



The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**




Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

CONGREGATORS

BIRTHDAYS

It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be **Friday, September 14, 1 pm** at the Log Jam. **Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.**

Linda Olds  
Linda Gooley  
Alex Reed  
Kay Kulp  
Julie Wilkinson  
Thea Oatman  
Boyd Tyler  
Ellen Robinson  
Charlene Avery  
Quinn Annis  
Sue Ann Cole  
Connie Dible  
Pat Reed



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

BOTTLES AND CANS

PHOTO PERMISSION

Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised **\$209.10** for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised **\$148.30**. We still need another **\$60.80** to meet last year's total. **Let's beat last year's total!**




If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to [photos@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org)

Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

PAPERGATOR




Save the date! **October 28<sup>th</sup>** is our annual community **Trunk or Treat** event.

We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!

Start planning your **SPOOKTACULAR** ideas for decorating your trunk today!

The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <http://papergatorrecycling.com/>

Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received **\$95.60**. **Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!**



**PAPERGATOR**  
KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.

Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

Holmes  
214 S. Nelson  
Pottersville, MI 48876

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



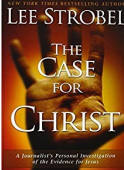
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Hunter  
306 E. Scott St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
Church E-mail:  
office@grandledgeucc.org

Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
Fax: 517- 627- 4539  
Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Jackson  
5636 Bear Creek Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48917

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
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Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Johnson  
10768 Countryside Dr.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Klingbiel  
1104 Tulip St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

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517-780-1105  
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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School


SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Knight  
4775 Village Dr., #245  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**




Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

CONGREGATORS

BIRTHDAYS

It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be **Friday, September 14, 1 pm** at the Log Jam. **Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.**

Linda Olds  
Linda Gooley  
Alex Reed  
Kay Kulp  
Julie Wilkinson  
Thea Oatman  
Boyd Tyler  
Ellen Robinson  
Charlene Avery  
Quinn Annis  
Sue Ann Cole  
Connie Dible  
Pat Reed



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

BOTTLES AND CANS

PHOTO PERMISSION

Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised **\$209.10** for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised **\$148.30**. We still need another **\$60.80** to meet last year's total. **Let's beat last year's total!**




If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to [photos@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org)

Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

PAPERGATOR




Save the date! **October 28<sup>th</sup>** is our annual community **Trunk or Treat** event.

We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!

Start planning your **SPOOKTACULAR** ideas for decorating your trunk today!

The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <http://papergatorrecycling.com/>

Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received **\$95.60**. **Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!**



FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.

Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
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Kowalk  
12740 Crescent Dr.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
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Maguire  
11600 Millstone Drive  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*  
**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Maguire  
3725 Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.



The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p>		
<div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>					
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
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Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Marshall  
114 Elm St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



McKensie  
7135 Rock Bridge Rd.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



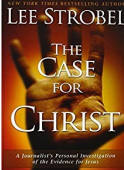
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
Fax: 517- 627- 4539  
Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Metzger  
6300 W. Michigan Ave., Apt. G-3  
Lansing, MI 48917

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
Church E-mail:  
office@grandledgeucc.org

Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to photos@grandledgeucc.org</p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Mills  
4528 Hampton Court, #4  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
Church E-mail:  
office@grandledgeucc.org

Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Nichols  
222 S. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	


SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Nielsen  
3024 Norwich Road  
Lansing, MI 48911

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



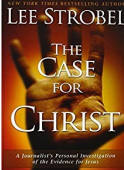
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



O'Boyle  
1120 DeGroff St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



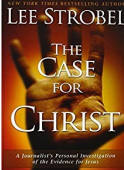
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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Olds  
1101 W. Main St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
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Oles  
5897 Grand River Dr.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to photos@grandledgeucc.org</p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
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Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Parrish  
2124 Ridgeline Dr.  
Lansing, MI 48912

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Perry  
8794 Hartel Rd.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



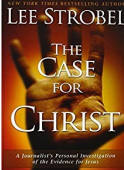
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

Pscodna  
3794 Calypso  
Holt, MI 48842

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Pung  
206 Hume Blvd.  
Lansing, MI 48917

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Robinson  
211 W. Jefferson St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY


Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.





21 September  
International  
Day of Peace

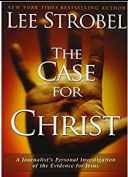
UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.

Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.

FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**





Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p>		
<div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>					
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Schaible  
6126 Willow Highway  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

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517-780-1105  
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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY


Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.





21 September  
International  
Day of Peace

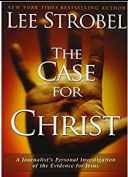
UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.

Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.

FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**





Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Schneider  
1915 Glass Drive  
Charlotte, MI 48813

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p> <div></div>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p> <div></div>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

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**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Searles  
607 Edwards Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds</div><div>Linda Gooley</div><div>Alex Reed</div><div>Kay Kulp</div><div>Julie Wilkinson</div><div>Thea Oatman</div><div>Boyd Tyler</div><div>Ellen Robinson</div><div>Charlene Avery</div><div>Quinn Annis</div><div>Sue Ann Cole</div><div>Connie Dible</div><div>Pat Reed</div></div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to photos@grandledgeucc.org</p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

Part-time Pastor Options

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

Maintenance Issue

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

Exit Interview

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

**Office Phone:** 517- 627- 2336  
**Fax:** 517- 627- 4539  
**Pastor:** [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
**Pastor Barb Edema:** 517-780-1105  
**Church E-mail:** [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

Shane  
4120 Morel Dr.  
Cadillac, MI 49601

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
Church E-mail:  
office@grandledgeucc.org  
Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,  
  
It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY


Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.





21 September  
International  
Day of Peace

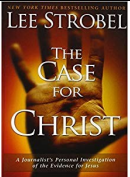
UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.

Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

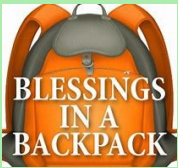
Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.

FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**





Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to photos@grandledgeucc.org</p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Shoemaker  
111 W. South St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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Website:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Stirling  
5355 Abbey Mill Blvd., SE  
Ada, MI 49301

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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Pastor Barbara Edema:  
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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.



The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**




Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

CONGREGATORS

BIRTHDAYS

It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be **Friday, September 14, 1 pm** at the Log Jam. **Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.**

Linda Olds  
Linda Gooley  
Alex Reed  
Kay Kulp  
Julie Wilkinson  
Thea Oatman  
Boyd Tyler  
Ellen Robinson  
Charlene Avery  
Quinn Annis  
Sue Ann Cole  
Connie Dible  
Pat Reed



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

BOTTLES AND CANS

PHOTO PERMISSION

Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised **\$209.10** for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised **\$148.30**. We still need another **\$60.80** to meet last year's total. **Let's beat last year's total!**




If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to [photos@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org)

Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

PAPERGATOR




Save the date! **October 28<sup>th</sup>** is our annual community **Trunk or Treat** event.

We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!

Start planning your **SPOOKTACULAR** ideas for decorating your trunk today!

The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <http://papergatorrecycling.com/>

Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received **\$95.60**. **Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!**



**PAPERGATOR**  
KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.

Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018					
Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018					
Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green	
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer	
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks	
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Acolytes					
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat	
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
Fax: 517- 627- 4539  
Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Thompson  
4419 Norway  
Oscoda, MI 48750

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-627-2336  
Fax 517-627-4539

Pastor Barbara Edema:  
517-780-1105  
pastor@grandledgeucc.org  
Church E-mail:  
office@grandledgeucc.org

Website:  
grandledgeucc.org

PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p><b>Grand Ledge Food Bank</b> <b>4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837</b> <b>517-627-4348</b></p> <p><b>Open for donations:</b> <b>Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</b></p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
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Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
Fax: 517- 627- 4539  
Pastor: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Warren  
6668 Cotswald Drive  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



# THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER  
2018



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PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11

## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
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Pastor Barb Edema: 517-780-1105  
Church E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
website: [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



Wiseman  
524 Edwards St.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Sue, Bob & Ben Sackett, Custodians	Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Nursery Care	Lisa Reed & Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Charlene Avery & Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach
	Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large
	Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large
	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**



THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER 2018



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Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
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517-780-1105  
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grandledgeucc.org

PASTOR'S REPORT	1-2
SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
BIBLE STUDY	3
RALLY SUNDAY	3
PEACE DAY	4
WGOD	4
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	4
SISTERS OF RUTH	5
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	5
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
CONGREGATORS	6
PHOTO PERMISSION	6
BIRTHDAYS	6
PAPER GATOR	6
TRUNK-OR-TREAT	6
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY	6
BOTTLES & CANS	6
INCOME & EXPENSE	7
NUT SALES	7
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/9
CALENDAR/SCHEDULE	10/11



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear saints and angels of FCUCC,

It so exciting to begin our new relationship together. Rally Sunday, September 9, will be our first Sunday to worship and share communion together. I know the time we will spend together, as you search for your Called Pastor, will be fruitful, creative, spiritual, and fun! I have written a bit about my background. I hope you enjoy this story. God bless us all.



At the age of 18 I had an agent in Hollywood and was on track to be another small, blonde actress. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal in life. Finding an agent took only one interview. I signed on the dotted line. Driving to studios for various auditions was a bit more difficult, because I am, and always will be, geographically challenged. In 1980 there was no GPS. But I made it to the interviews and found myself sitting in rooms full of girls who looked exactly like me. Humbling.

My father was an American Baptist Minister. Being a pastor's kid meant that when the doors of the church were open, we were there. I knew how the church functioned and which keys opened which doors. I can't say much went on with my personal faith. I knew how to smile and be polite and eat odd food when invited over to parishioner's homes for dinner. Manners were most important.

One day, my father called and said there was a group of Christian actors going to Israel to perform a Nativity Play and a Passion Play. They needed one more woman. As aforementioned, my faith was as solid as a vapor, so I naively asked him where Israel was. Mmm... After saying, "Sure, why not?" Life moved quickly. Within one day I had a passport (unheard of), within two days I had two packed suitcases with everything I would need to live in a foreign country for six months (false, I was woefully unprepared), within three days my brother threw a surprise goodbye party (fun), and on day four, I was sitting on a 747 bound for Jordan, then to Israel.

My grandma asked my mom where I was going to be living. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked my mom how I could be contacted or if I would contact someone upon my arrival. "I don't know." My mother said. My grandma asked who I would be working with. "I don't know." My mother said.

My mother had just put her 18-year-old daughter on a plane from Los Angeles to Israel for a six month stay. That was all she knew. When she looks back on that time, she says it was the Holy Spirit that kept her from asking questions, or there would have been no possible way in the world she would have put me on that plane. Thank God. I have an amazingly wonderful mother, I'm glad she was Holy Spirit-blinded that week.

I met nine American strangers when I finally got to Jerusalem. Our director, Francisco de Araujo, was a thin man with crazy white curly hair, which his fingers regularly ran through. He was artistic, visionary, and created two plays that changed many lives. Mine was one of them.

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD (CONTINUED)

Over the course of six months, our small group became very close. We experienced things such as, being robbed, bomb explosions in the Old City of Jerusalem, an important education about differing cultures and religions living side by side. We ate waffles covered in ice cream, and falafels covered in yogurt sauce. We walked the streets with bibles opened and read the names of the places where we stood in the pages of the Gospels. We went where Jesus went and it was marvelous.

I had many roles in each of our plays. But in the Nativity Play, performed on the hills of Bethlehem, I played the role of an angel. The blonde hair was one stereotypical reason I received this part. All the other smaller angels had the blackest of hair and chocolaty brown eyes. They were local Arabs hired to perform with us, and they were beautiful. I danced with little angels on the hills of Bethlehem.

Six months in Israel, with more experiences than there is space to tell here, brought me to LIFE. Real life. When we all departed for our different homes, I flew back to Los Angeles and told my Hollywood agent bye-bye. I enrolled in College, then Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I had lived the most fabulous story of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem to his gruesome death and life-saving resurrection in Jerusalem. I wanted to tell that story with my life. It was my dream, my hope, my only goal. I wanted to make the story of Christ artistic, visionary, and creative. I understood why Christianity could be as boring as dirt, but also how it could light someone on fire with joy and excitement.

I have been a pastor for 24 years, serving RCA, UCC, and PCUSA churches. I also write fictional books – The Pastor Maggie Series – about a small, blonde, twenty-six-year-old pastor entering her first church. I write about Pastor Maggie because I don't find many female clergy stories on bookshelves. I also don't always like how clergy are often portrayed in Hollywood, etc. Maggie is full of heart, clumsy, impetuous, lacking life experience, loves God and her new church. Loving the Lord Community Church is full of people who may or may not have similarities to hundreds of parishioners I have served over the years.

So, how have you danced with angels? How have they changed your life? Dancing with angels in REAL LIFE is more enthralling to me than a lot of what Hollywood puts together. It is truly the collision of our stories with God’s stories that make life more powerful than anything else. May the dance continue.

I'll meet you on the hillside.  
The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



An update from the  
**PASTORAL  
SEARCH  
COMMITTEE**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent congregational conversations to help the Search Committee answer some of the remaining questions on our local church profile. Your input was very helpful! The profile is pretty much done other than a couple remaining questions having to do with the next pastor’s compensation package and we expect those questions to be answered after the next Executive Board meeting later this month (this is being written mid-August for the newsletter deadline.) Our profile will then be reviewed by Conference Minister Campbell Lovett and he will provide feedback, which we will incorporate in our profile. Shortly after that our profile should be posted online and pastoral candidates can have their profiles sent to us. The committee will be trained on reading the profiles and will begin to review profiles as it receives them. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Holcomb-Merrill.

Page 3

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is **prayer as a faith community**. We invite you to use the **prayer cards in the pews** or call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share. If no one is available to speak with you, you may leave a voicemail.

**Health concerns:** Pray for family and friends with health concerns

**Those who are struggling be it:** financially, mentally, spiritually, individually, or collectively.

**Those in a time of transition or turmoil.**

**Those who serve:** soldiers, teachers, police officers, firefighters, counselors, activists, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S. and Barbara N.

In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people’s privacy, we will only list individuals with their explicit permission and not use last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.



HAVE YOU EVER HAD HURT FEELINGS?

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study is back!!! Beginning **Thursday, Sept. 13 at 3 p.m.** we will meet in the choir room. **All are welcome.**

Have you ever had hurt feelings, been disappointed in something or someone, experienced grief, felt betrayed, experienced loss, of friends, family, or material items? If so, or if you just want to learn about these, this study on Job is for you. I am really excited about it and know it will produce great discussions.

The books are here. See me for your copy. If the 10 copies I have go fast, we will have time to order more. Cost is **\$5.00** but Scholarships are available.

If you have any questions, or want to reserve your copy, call or email Judy Nielsen; 882-0608 or [judithnielsen37@gmail.com](mailto:judithnielsen37@gmail.com)

RALLY SUNDAY

Coming Soon! **Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We have wonderful activities planned for our church year! Including welcoming our Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema and our new Choir Director, Brandon Frost.

During Sunday School this year our children will be learning about God’s Creation and how we are all called to be God’s caretakers.

If you have been cleared to teach our children, please sign-up on the sheet for Sunday School teachers located on the bulletin board by the Nursery.

A Special coffee hour is planned for Rally Sunday. The Board of Congregational Life & Church Growth will be providing coffee/punch and cupcakes. The congregation is welcome to bring the finger food of their choice to share.



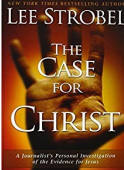
PEACE DAY



UN International Day of Peace will be observed on **September 21**, it was created in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution. This year we are being asked to celebrate by ringing bells for one minute at 12 noon. **ANYONE** may ring as we share a commitment to peace above all differences. You do not need any experience ringing, just one bell for one minute. **PLEASE JOIN US!** Contact the church office and /or Darlene B. at 627-8712. This way we will be sure to have enough bells for all who wish to participate.

WGOD

We are excited to begin the new program year with our first Women Gathering Over Devotions meeting on **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Burt, Jane Gilson, and Freida Schneeberger have volunteered to prepare dinner. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00.



Our first discussion will be the Introduction and Part One of the book “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased either in the store or on line at Barnes and Nobel or through Amazon.

WGOD is a women’s group that discusses inspirational books that are inspiring and helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and live a grateful life in the service of God. Contact any member for more information or join us for the evening.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack provides food for the weekends to over 200 Grand Ledge children so they are not hungry. To qualify, a student must qualify for the free and reduced lunch program during the school week.

Blessings in a Backpack is providing food for 34 weeks as the school week extended by two weeks starting last school year. On the average, it takes \$134 a year to provide food for an elementary student and \$170 a year for a middle school student.

Blessings in a Backpack is a completely volunteer program supported by the Grand Ledge community. Volunteers shop for and purchase the food. The Grand Ledge Lions Club transports the food from the store to Sawdon School, Room 308, for packing. Additional volunteers pack the bags for transport to the schools, others take the food to the schools and then school personnel volunteer to pass it out.

The impact of your donation helps students that receive Blessings in a Backpack in several ways:

- The children feel cared for by their family, neighbors, school, and community.
- Some students feel they are helping their family.
- Students are more attentive in school when not concerned about hunger or food.
- In a student survey, 60% of the students admitted to getting into less trouble when they are not hungry.



FCUCC has provided packing and donations since Blessings in a Backpack began six years ago. We will announce a packing date later in the program year. **Our annual collection for our church’s donation to Blessings in a Backpack will be on Sunday, September 16. To support a child for one year, it is only \$134.00. Prayerfully consider supporting this program as it helps so many students complete their education. Please make checks out to FCUCC. Thank you.**



Page 5	
FOOD BANK	STOCK THE SHELVES
<p>Grand Ledge Food Bank 4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 517-627-4348</p> <p>Open for donations: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>In August, First Congregational UCC delivered <b>135 food items, 21 non-food items</b> and <b>148 school items</b> to the Grand Ledge food bank. Please see the ‘Stock the Shelves’ article for current needs at the food bank.</p>	<p><b><u>GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANKS NEEDS</u></b></p> <p>Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support.</p> <p><b><u>Food Suggestions</u></b> Hamburger Helper Tuna Canned Black Beans Dry Beans Cold Cereal Egg Noodles Boxed Potatoes Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing Ramen Noodles Stuffing Mix 5 lb. Flour Packages 4 lb. Sugar Packages Snack size zip bags</p> <p><b><u>Clothing Room Needs</u></b> Children's Jeans (all sizes) Children's Jackets Short Athletic Socks (children and adult) New Underwear (all sizes)</p> <p>We are still in need of property maintenance help at the food bank regarding staining the front ramp and decking. We have the stain but need someone to secure some loose boards, wash the decking and stain the project. Thanks so much for considering.</p> <p>As the summer wraps up and we begin to plan for the holidays at the food bank, we ask you to consider a monetary donation toward Thanksgiving meals for our families so we can provide fresh produce and turkeys. We will also be providing a free shopping event in December so our families can pick out gifts for their loved ones. We offered this for the first time last December. With Christmas music in the background, our clients chose and wrapped gifts in a building behind the food bank. They also chose from donated Christmas decorations. They were so grateful as many typically forego any family gift exchange.</p> <p>Prayers and Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513)325-6302</p>
<p><b>SISTER OF RUTH</b></p> <p>Sister of Ruth will meet for lunch of <b>September 10, 2018 at Cugino’s at 1:00 p.m.</b> We will plan our 2018-19 calendar.</p> <p>Sisters of Ruth is a social group that performs community service projects for our church and community. We would love to have you join us for lunch and see what we are all about. For more information please contact Fay S. at 627-2727.</p>	
<p><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p><b><u>THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF SIREN/EATON SHELTER CHILDREN!</u></b></p> <p>Thank you to our FCUCC families ... once again your loving generosity poured out in the form of several beautiful outfits of clothing, socks, undies, and jackets, plus \$540 in gift cards and cash for our three ‘adopted’ children, Ellen, Jeremy, and Calvin. SIREN/Eaton Shelter volunteers will use the gift cards to take the children shopping to purchase shoes and some additional clothing items. Once their needs are met, the balance of the gift cards will be used for another child or two at the shelter. The first day of school, August 20, was special for the children and their families. Everyone loves new clothes! Once again, thank you so much!</p> <p>...Your Outreach team – Charlene, Tony, Sandy, Karen and Sarah</p>	

Page 6		SEPTEMBER 2018		THE CHURCH WINDOW	
CONGREGATORS			BIRTHDAYS		
<p>It's always an extra special get together when old friends Louise and Janet returned to have lunch and conversation with our group. But we always miss those who were not able to come in August. At least two people had special family events they were looking forward to over the next couple of days. We hope to hear about their good times when we meet in September. Our next lunch gathering will be <b>Friday, September 14, 1 pm</b> at the Log Jam. <b>Please be sure to get in touch with Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019) to reserve your spot.</b></p>			<div><div><div>Linda Olds Linda Gooley Alex Reed Kay Kulp Julie Wilkinson Thea Oatman Boyd Tyler Ellen Robinson Charlene Avery Quinn Annis Sue Ann Cole Connie Dible Pat Reed</div><div></div></div><div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a></p></div></div>		
BOTTLES AND CANS			PHOTO PERMISSION		
<p>Our bottle and can drive is underway and runs through mid-September. Drop off your bottles and cans in the back entrance to the church. In 2017, AFTF raised <b>\$209.10</b> for the general fund for FCUCC. So far, we have raised <b>\$148.30</b>. We still need another <b>\$60.80</b> to meet last year's total. <b>Let's beat last year's total!</b></p>			<p>If you have FCUCC images that you would like to share please send them to <a href="mailto:photos@grandledgeucc.org">photos@grandledgeucc.org</a></p> <p>Also, if you have not filled out a photo permission form please do so. They are located on the table in the Narthex. If you would prefer that we not use your image please let us know that as well. Thank you for your help.</p>		
TRUNK-OR-TREAT			PAPERGATOR		
<div><div></div><div><p>Save the date! <b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> is our annual community <b>Trunk or Treat</b> event.</p><p>We will be looking for helpers to welcome Grand Ledge to our church. Look for more information in coming announcements regarding how you can be a part of this fun!</p><p>Start planning your <b>SPOOKTACULAR</b> ideas for decorating your trunk today!</p></div></div>			<p>The PaperGator® is a unique fundraiser where our church is paid to collect paper products and place them in a bin for recycling. For more information, please visit <a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot. So far, this year we have received <b>\$95.60</b>. <b>Tell your family and friends - it's hungry!</b></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>PAPERGATOR</b> KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p></div></div>		
FREE LITTLE LIBRARY					
<p>In our continuing effort to fight illiteracy First Congregational UCC has a Little Free Library. It is located in the front of the church near our road sign.</p> <p>Little Free Library is a national program where interested individuals or groups register their libraries and then place them on their property and make books available to all ages in their neighborhood. It works just like a regular Library; you can borrow a book and return it. You can donate a book. You can take a book and return it to another LFL.</p>					

Page 7

NUT SALE NEW

In 2009 we started our fund-raising efforts with the sale of nuts and candy from the Terri Lynn Company based in Elgin, Illinois. Although they have a very good product, their prices have continually increased throughout our business experience with them, which has forced us to pass these increases on to our customers.

We were notified that, effective immediately, they will no longer be charging shipping costs to any of its customers. Previously, any customer’s order of 16 or more cases did not pay any shipping costs. Since our orders have always been in excess of 16 cases, we have never paid for shipping charges.

Most recently, we received their latest brochure together with the new price list, which reflects an obvious intent to recoup their “free” shipping by increasing their prices exponentially over last year’s prices. With the exception of one item, every product we have been selling has been increased on an average of \$15 per case. The largest price increases have affected the more popular items to the tune of \$24 per case, which results in an increase of \$2.00 per package.



After discussing this with a number of the members of our congregation and AFTF (Alternative Funding Task Force), the overwhelming consensus was, due to the unprecedented increase of prices, this no longer is a viable fund raiser for our church.

I would personally wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been so supportive throughout the years of this fund raiser.

Mary Lou Prevost, AFTF Member

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET						
	Actual July 2018	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2018	Comparison Year to Date	
Income:	\$ 10,599.16	\$ 81,075.17	\$ 78,358.94	\$ 138,986.00	= \$ (2,716.23)	increase in income
Expenses:	\$ <u>8,789.95</u>	\$ <u>96,576.67</u>	\$ <u>89,169.47</u>	\$ <u>165,560.00</u>	= \$ <u>7,407.20</u>	increase in expenses
Balance:	\$ 1,809.21	(\$ 15,501.50)	(\$ 10,810.53)	(\$ 26,574.00)	\$ 4,690.97	net improvement year-to-date

This report compares the actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses. It is very important that this congregation continues to work very diligently to eliminate the deficit so that we may continue to serve our members, friends, and community.



July 24, 2018

**Call to Order**

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Board Members present: Kim Dible, Julie Wilkinson, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Bil Turner, Chris Cypher and Bruce Ramthun.

**Spiritual Reflection**

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer to open the meeting.

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Treasurer’s Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda minus the Treasurers Report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**

Fay brought to our attention that the total in usable savings is about \$23,000. It was also noted that there appears to be an error in the Total Income Budget YTD column, in that the Missions line item may have been omitted from the total. This may affect other items in that column. The Treasurers report was provisionally accepted.

**Discussion Items**

*Part-time Pastor Options*

Bil had previously distributed a summary of financial issues, and potential part-time cost and duty scenarios. An in-depth discussion about that summary took place. It became clear that there are pros and cons to any choice that is made regarding the amount of ministry we choose.

Moved by Bruce, seconded by Fay to opt for a 60% Pastoral Position. Motion passed. It was agreed to wait on selecting specific duties to be included in that 60% position until the Appreciative Inquiry sessions are complete.

*Maintenance Issue*

The chimney problem was discussed, but not enough information was available to move forward. Rich will make inquiries about this item

*Exit Interview*

The interview is scheduled for Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Joe Gilson will moderate the discussion. Bil will be the scribe. Bruce will make an announcement on Sunday. Any from the congregation will be welcome to attend. There are two documents in Drop Box under Executive Board 2018 minutes that will be helpful as preparation for this interview.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Trunk or Treat

Lynn asked the Board if they wanted to continue with Trunk or Treat this year. There are many positive aspects about this event, however it does have financial costs. The general consensus was yes; the Board supported this event and wanted it to continue.

### Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Items Requiring Action**

#### Selection of a Bridge Pastor

The Committee interviewed two candidates and recommended Barb Edema, an experienced minister who lives in Dewitt. She is available beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Gooley has arranged for sermons from our members until then. The Board discussed the scope of work, and it was agreed that it should include Sunday Service and one other unit of work per week, for a total of three units – a unit being defined as a morning, afternoon or evening of work.

Moved by Bil, seconded by Bruce to hire Barb Edema as our Bridge Pastor. Motion passed. Rich will meet with her and discuss details.

### **Search Committee Update**

No report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### Employee Handbook

The Employee handbook needs work. The Personnel Committee will look into this.

#### Basketball Hoop in Parking Lot.

Chris informed the group that there has been an inquiry about using our existing basketball hoop in the parking lot. The Board leaned negative on this item.

#### Financial Secretary away for 6 weeks.

Chris informed the Board that she will be gone during September and half of October. Someone will need to take her place. Rich will inquire with selected members.

#### Board of Congregational Life items

Kim explained that the Board of Congregational Life has inquired at the Sun Theater about advertising. Their ads are currently full and they have no room for us. In the meantime we will stop advertising with the Independent. Kim will ask Jeannette to stop that advertisement.

Congregational Life has discussed locks on the office doors and a safe for the office. No conclusion was reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be August 28th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2018

Date	September 2nd Ordinary Time Green	September 9th Ordinary Time Green	September 16th Ordinary Time Green	September 23rd Ordinary Time Green	September 30th Ordinary Time Green
Text	James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15	Mark 7:24-37 James 2:1-10,14-17	Mark 8:27-38 James 3:1-12	Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mark 9:38-50 James 5:13-20
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Kim Dible (Glasser)	Tina Lamer
Greeters	TBD	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Kim Dible (Glasser) and Connie Dible
Ushers	TBD	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Bil Turner and Russ Marshall	Sue Sackett and Cheryl Mattson
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Lily Wilson	Patty Curtis	Sue Sackett
Soundboard	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	John and Freida Schneeberger	Emily and Nicole Mai	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY				
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Sunday School Returns September 9th	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart	Lynn Hart

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2018

Date	October 7th Ordinary Time Green	October 14th Ordinary Time Green	October 21st Ordinary Time Green	October 28th Ordinary time Green
Text	Job 1:1;2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Mark 10:17-31	Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Mark 10:35-45	Job 42:1-6,10-17 Mark 10:46-52
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Tina Lamer
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Patty Curtis and Jane Cosper	Sue Sackett and Bil Turner
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Gary and Kathy Burt	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson
Liturgist	Rich Brown	Anita Calcagno	Patty Curtis	Ben Banks
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Acolytes				
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Kathy Burt	Charlene Avery and Gla’ Spayde	Gary and Chris Cypher	Trunk or Treat
Altar Flowers	CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY			
Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care	No Nursery Care
Sunday School	Family Service	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 26 10:30 am Worship Newsletter Available	27	28 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	29 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	30 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	31 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance	1
2 10:30 am Worship / Food Drive / No Communion	3 Office Closed / Labor Day	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	5 6:00 pm AA 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm AL ANON	6 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	7 Office Closed	8
9 10:30 am Worship / Rally Sunday / Communion & Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome Bridge Pastor Barb Edema</li><li>Sunday School Start</li><li>Chancel Choir</li><li>Grand Ringers</li></ul>	10 1:00 pm Sisters of Ruth 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	11 8 am- 1 pm Rock the Block / Habitat for Humanity Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life	12 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	13 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study begins 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	14 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregators lunch 7:30 pm Square Dance	15
16 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Blessings in a Backpack collection	17 6:00 pm WGOD 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	18 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	19 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	20 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	21 Office Closed International Day of Peace - Bell Ringing Newsletter Items	22
23 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School	24 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	25 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6:30 pm Executive Board	26 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	27 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	28 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance	29
30 10:30 am Worship / Sunday School Newsletter Available	October 1 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice	2 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall	3 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON	4 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 3:00 pm Job Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	5 Office Closed	6



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**website:** [grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)

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<p><i>Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.</i></p> <p><b>Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC</b></p>	
<p><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Bridge Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Barbara Edema</p> <p>Jeannette Len, Office Administrator</p> <p>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</p> <p>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</p> <p>Judy Nielsen, Organist</p> <p>Sue, Bob &amp; Ben Sackett, Custodians</p> <p>Nursery Care</p> <p>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Richard Brown, Moderator</p> <p>Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator</p> <p>Bil Turner, Clerk</p> <p>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</p> <p>Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary</p> <p>Lynn Hart, Christian Education</p> <p>Lisa Reed &amp; Kim Dible (Glasser), Congregational Life</p> <p>Charlene Avery &amp; Anthony Bray, Christian Outreach</p> <p>Julie Wilkinson, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Bruce Ramthun, Member-at-Large</p> <p>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</p>

**If you would like to receive your Newsletter via email,  
please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**