

THE CHURCH WINDOW



JANUARY 2019



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FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear friends,

One thing I love at Christmas is opening calendars. We have calendars all over our house. Most of them are full of cat pictures (thanks, Doug!). The fun thing about a new calendar is looking at all the blank pages and wondering what will be written in the squares.

In the way that every day is a new day and a fresh start, a new year is that on a much grander scale. Whereas I might like to accomplish certain things before the end of each day, looking at a whole blank year is exciting and daunting. How would I like to live this year, 2019, and who do I want to be when I open my calendars for 2020?

Resolutions are great. I hear most New Year's resolutions last until the middle of February. Oh well...

If each one of us made a list of how we would like to live differently this coming year, I wonder what we would write. What would make this year stand out? Not where we go on vacation or how fit we become, but who do we want to be to make a positive change in the world? It that's too much to think about, how about who do we want to be to make a positive change in our community? Our family?

How about just for our own hearts and minds?

When Doug and I were married, one of the verses for our wedding was Micah 6:8. It is well known and oft-quoted:

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Three things. Three difficult and many-faceted requirements: Do, Love, Walk.

I want 2019 to be a year where I do more to promote and advocate for justice. I want 2019 to be a year where I love kindness in places where kindness doesn't exist (especially in my own heart when I get cranky about world events). And I want to remember who is in charge. I am not. God is.

I want 2019 to be a year where I love kindness in places where kindness doesn't exist.....

The calendars are ready to be filled. Justice, kindness, and humble walks with God are three of the ways I will try to fill every new day. Will you join me?

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! And may God bless us all in 2019.

Peace and joy, Pastor Barb

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has been reviewing candidate profiles and has been in touch with some of the candidates. We are meeting a couple times a month to keep things moving along as best as we can. We appreciate your prayers and support as we seek the person called to be our next settled pastor. Karen Holcomb-Merrill

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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, Lili B., Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S., Barbara N. and all who are recovering from hurricanes, earthquake and recent fires.

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.



MARJORY HAUETER ENDOWMENT FUND



We all remember with sadness the loss of Marge Haueter this past October. She was a long time member of this congregation, who loved our church and what it stands for. Marge remembered the church in her final wishes. Because of her generosity, the Endowment Committee and the Executive Board have established the Marjory Haueter Endowment Fund. In keeping with Marge's wishes, this fund will be used to help support various portions of the Building and Grounds category of our Annual Budget. Bless you, Marge, your generosity and memory will live on.

GLEAP SPECIAL OFFERING

Most of us are familiar with the service agency in our community known as GLEAP, or the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program. GLEAP is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that assists with utility bills, transportation, food, medicine and housing needs for families within the Grand Ledge Public School District. Annually GLEAP serves over 400 families. It is funded by donations from generous organizations, individuals, and churches like ours. Last year our church had its annual special offering for GLEAP on Easter Sunday. This year the Board of Christian Outreach decided to have the offering on Sunday, January 20, as winter months can bring more families to GLEAP who need extra help with cold weather related needs. Look for special envelopes in the church bulletin on **January 20** and on the table in the narthex through the end of the month.

Thank you once again for helping families in our community who have so much less than we do.

Charlene, Tony, Karen W., Sandy and Sarah

ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual meeting and Soup Sunday** is scheduled for **January 27th**. The Annual Meeting is our primary decision making gathering of the year, where we vote to approve our annual budget and elect our new slate of church officers. We also will discuss the past year, and our goals for 2018. It is important for all members and friends of the church to attend. God is Still Speaking, and God speaks through us.

Soups and beverages will be provided by the Executive Board. The Congregation is invited to bring bread, crackers and desserts.



INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET

| | Actual October 2018 | Budget Year-to-Date | Actual Year-to-Date | Actual Budget |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income | \$ 11,781.12 | \$115,088.33 | \$116,123.04 | \$138,986.00 |
| Expenses | <u>10,948.73</u> | <u>137,966.67</u> | <u>118,079.50</u> | <u>165,560.00</u> |
| Balance | \$ 832.39 | \$(22,878.33) | \$(1,956.46) | \$(26,574.00) |
| | Actual November 2018 | Budget Year-to-Date | Actual Year-to-Date | Actual Budget |
| Income | \$12,249.65 | \$127,403.83 | \$128,472.69 | \$138,986.00 |
| Expenses | <u>9,523.70</u> | <u>151,763.33</u> | <u>127,113.58</u> | <u>165,560.00</u> |
| Balance | \$ 2,825.95 | \$(24,359.50) | \$ 1,359.11 | \$(26,574.00) |



During the months of October and November, we made substantial gains on our deficit and are now seeing a positive outcome. We must remember that we are in the most expensive times of our church year with the colder weather and the darkness of the night coming earlier. We also paid property insurance due the month of December. If members and friends of our church keep up with their pledges and donations, we will have a positive year and our church will be able to continue to serve as we are known to do and much more.

WHAT SHALL WE BRING?

Our stewardship theme is "**What Shall We Bring?!**" We want to thank everyone who has participated in this year's drive, including our Stewardship team, our wonderful presenters, and all of you who have submitted pledges.

We are still tallying final numbers. If you haven't submitted your pledge yet, we encourage you to do so to make sure we reach our goal! 90% of the church's income is received through pledges, it is very important that we receive your pledge so that the Executive Board will have an accurate account of pledges to help them prepare the 2019 budget.



GUSTAFSON ENDOWMENT

The Gustafson Endowment Scholarship is to provide funds for educational opportunities for the children and youth of First Congregational United Church of Christ. This may include, but is not limited to, the following: curriculum materials for Sunday school, materials for special events and programs, camp and special trip scholarships, educational workshops for teachers, tapes, music, and book supplies, or materials to provide a pleasant educational setting for the classrooms.

ENDOWMENT FUND

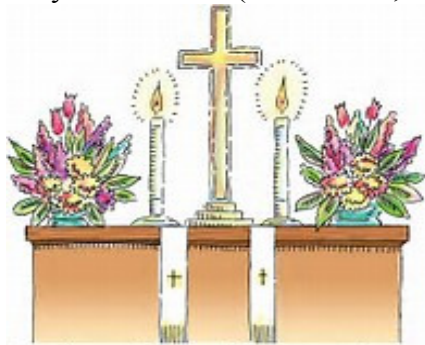
The Endowment Fund of First Congregational United Church of Christ was established to create a gift that continues to support programs which are beyond the capabilities of our annual budget.

Endowment applications are available in the church office.



WORSHIP

For those of you who currently provide worship support as greeters/ushers, liturgists, crucifers, or coffee hour hosts/hostesses, I wanted to touch base about how that scheduling happens. Scheduling usually takes place about two months in advance so that there is time to get the schedules in the newsletter. I am happy to have folks give me specific dates they would like to serve, and also to give me specific dates/times of year to avoid (no summer, no January or February,



Worship Schedule

no first Sunday of the month, etc.) If you end up scheduled for an inconvenient date, you can first, try to trade with someone. Second, if you have not found a replacement, notify the church office to send out an appeal for help with that date. People are always willing to lend a hand when needed! If you would like to hand-pick your dates, or update the scheduling preferences I have on hand, please feel free to give me a call at 517-627-3835 or email at thehornfamily@ymail.com. For anyone who would like more information about the various worship support positions or would like to be added to the list of volunteers, please feel free to contact me or catch me at church. Thanks!! Leah Horn



PAPERGATOR



PAPERGATOR
KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN

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 and **it's hungry!**

COFFEE HOUR FUND/HOSPITALITY

The coffee hour/hospitality fund buys the supplies for our coffee hours such as coffee, juice, paper plates, cups, napkins, etc. It also is used for special occasions. It recently was used to help pay for the hot dogs served at our fun and amazing Trunk or Treat event. A dollar or even loose change placed in the donation basket helps offset the cost of providing a coffee hour. Thank you for your donations!



**CONGRATULATIONS
KAREN HOLCOMB-MERRILL
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR
COMMISSIONING
JANUARY 29, 2012**

SENIOR LUNCH

Seniors are now having lunch at City Hall on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 Noon**. The program is offered through Eaton County Meals on Wheels. The following persons may eat on a donation basis:

- All persons 60 years of age and older and/ or the spouses of a person 60 years of age or older;
- Individuals under 60 years of age with disabilities who live with a senior over 60;
- Grandchildren under 17 years of age; or
- A non-paid caregiver for a program participant.

Notice of participation is encouraged. Meals on Wheels prefers to have a 24-hour notice if you are planning to attend. Please call the Tri-County Office on Aging at [517-887-1393](tel:517-887-1393). Those who do not meet the qualifications for a free meal may purchase a meal at the current full price of \$5.75.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are used throughout the year to enhance the worship experience in the church Sanctuary. Individuals or families may sign up for any given week to provide altar flowers. These flowers are provided by congregation members and friends. They are a wonderful way to honor a special occasion (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, holidays, etc.) or remember loved ones and friends who have passed away. Altar flowers can be cut flowers from your garden or a houseplant. Please sign-up on the sheet located in the main hallway or contact the church office at 517-627-2336.



YOGA IN THE SANCTUARY



Yoga in the Sanctuary will be held on **Thursday, January 3rd and 17th from 7 - 8:15 p.m.** Bring your mat a towel and a bottle of water. All are welcome to join. There is a **\$5.00** charge to participate.

FOOD BANK

Grand Ledge Food Bank
4934 Burt Ave. Grand Ledge, MI 48837

517-627-4348

Open for donations:

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In **November** First Congregational UCC delivered **376 food items** and **50 non-food items** to the Grand Ledge food bank. In **December** we delivered **216 food items** and **6 non-food items**. Please see the below 'Stock the Shelves' article for current needs at the food bank.

STOCK THE SHELVES

FOOD SUGGESTIONS

- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna
- Boxed Stuffing
- Gravy, cans or jars
- Boxed Potatoes
- Egg Noodles
- Cold Cereal
- Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing
- Oatmeal



CLOTHING ROOM NEEDS

- Children's Jeans (all sizes)
- Babies and Children's Pajamas (all sizes)
- Men's Jeans, especially sizes 32 to 36 waist



BIRTHDAY'S

Jeannette Len
 John Schneeberger
 Kathy Burt
 Jim Johnson
 Matt Cypher
 Dashal Gooley
 Leah Horn
 Tony Bray
 Kelly Stuible-Clark
 Fay Schroeder
 Mae Clark
 Robin Horn
 Quinn McWilliams
 Caleb Pier
 Sheila Wilkinson



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or grandledgeucc@aol.com

SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

Sisters of Ruth met for a nice lunch and a great social hour on December 10, 2018 at Applebee's in Lansing. We have not planned a meeting for January as of yet.



Sisters of Ruth want to thank everyone who has donated to the Baby Jesus Tree. All of the items were taken to the Grand Ledge Food Bank for them to distribute to new babies in need. Our church members and friends help this community in so many ways and the Baby Jesus Tree helps the littlest ones of our community. Thank you once again for your very generous donations.

CONGREGATORS

It was very disappointing to postpone our November get-together to the following Friday, then have our



second try cancelled due to early snowy weather. This is too precious a group to risk a fall on unexpected or unseen snow, slush, or ice! Because we don't meet in

December, we are very eager to see each other on **Friday, January 11th**. How quickly we are planning for the New Year! Let's keep our fingers crossed for dry roads on that day! **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.**

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



06-11-2010

RALPH JUST RAISED THE BAR FOR THE DRIFT-OFF-WAKE-SUDDENLY-HEAD-JERK MOVE

SUPER BOWL OF CARING

Let's help tackle hunger in Grand Ledge on **Sunday, February 3, 2019, Super Bowl Sunday**.

In addition to our normal food collection for the Grand Ledge Food Bank, please watch for the Souper Bowl soup pots after church.



Our young people will be collecting money to add to the food donation.

Cash helps the Food Bank buy those things that are not donated.

Let's fight hunger right here in Grand Ledge!

CRAFT BAZAAR

This year our Christmas Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale was held on Saturday, December 1, 2018. This was the biggest fund raiser for our church this year. We sold delicious baked goods and beautiful craft items made by members and friends of our church. We also had 20 vendors that sold a variety of crafts, gifts, and pasties. We were happy to have two non-profit organizations as vendors as well: an organization that helps the Mayan Women's Cooperative of Guatemala (a fair trade business) and Pilgrim Congregational Church.

As of this writing, we have made over \$1,100.00. Thank you to all of those who helped and participated in the bazaar and bake sale. You make the bazaar successful.

COSECHA GRAND RAPIDS

Remember our amazing October event when we and Immanuel Lutheran provided dinner, breakfast and overnight sleeping space for 50+ people from Cosecha Grand Rapids when they made their pilgrimage from Grand Rapids to the Lansing Capitol? At



the time, we asked them to let us know if we could help in any way in the future. So they asked...and

we gladly provided! On Saturday, December 8, we teamed up again to make a simple but delicious lunch and delivered it to the Cristo Rey Parish Church in south Lansing. We were happy to provide lunch for a hungry group of about 25 Cosecha leaders from around the state as they brainstormed ideas for the next steps to change Michigan laws for their movement called "Drivers Licenses For All." A big thank you to the Endowment Committee for providing \$\$ for much of the lunch food!

...Your Outreach Team – Charlene, Tony, Karen W, Sandy and Sarah

NIMBLE FINGERS

A big thank you to the many nimble fingers that helped tie fleece lap blankets for the Eaton County Meals on Wheels Program during coffee hour on Sunday or for taking one home to work on. The



MOW Program gives a small Christmas gift to each of their meal recipients and they are loving it that we made 10 blankets. If you enjoyed the fellowship of making them with a group or taking them home to work on, let us know. Next year we will make more... and get an earlier start in the fall. Thanks to the Endowment Committee for approving funds from our church's Local Missions Endowment Fund to pay for the material we used!

Charlene, Tony, Karen W., Sandy and Sarah

WGOD

Amy C. and Gla' S. prepared a wonderful dinner of white chicken chili and two salads for our meeting on November 19, 2018. During the evening, we watch the movie "A Case for Christ" to enhance the book of the same name that we have been discussing this program year.

On **January 21, 2019** we will meet and begin reading "To Love and To Cherish." This is the first of a series of three books written by our bridge pastor, Barbara Edema.

If you are interested in joining us or finding out what we are about, contact Fay S. at 627-2727. Women Gathering Over Devotions (WGOD) welcome you to join in on their inspirational and informational discussions.

SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

Our Red Cross Blood Drive on November 26th was a fine success, despite the weather. Twenty-three pints of blood were collected. A **big thank you** goes out to Gary Burt, Sue Sackett, Vicky Hunter, Gary Cypher, Gla' Spayde and the Gilsons, who all donated their time to help with this effort. A special thank you goes to all those who donated blood. There are many people whose lives may be dramatically affected because of this unusual gift given on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

SWING YOUR PARTNER

Winter family fun! The Doe-Si-Doe Square Dance Club will have square dance lessons on the following **Friday's; January 11, January 18, and 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** The first night of lessons will be free. Additional lessons will be \$7.00 each. If you would like to participate, please contact Louis at 517-322-2571.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO HURRICANE RELIEF!

You are an amazing congregation!! You have given over and over this year. When we gave you an opportunity in November to donate to the UCC hurricane recovery fund to help with the aftermath of Florence, Michael and Typhoon Mangkhut, you gave an amazing \$563. The Endowment Committee added \$137 from our wider mission endowment fund so we were able to sent a check for \$700! Thank you FCUCC!!

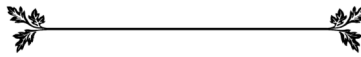
THANK YOU

To the family at First Congregational United Church of Christ,

From the bottom of our hearts, my husband Tom and I (Sharon) would like to thank you for the over whelming support you have shown our family. The kids are doing fine and adjusting as well as can be expected. They are loving the bunk beds they are sleeping in. We were able to purchase a second set with the monies raise, as well as get some groceries, some clothing items, pay a bill, and 1 additional dresser. This generosity has helped in so many ways and we cannot adequately express our gratitude.

May peace be with you all,

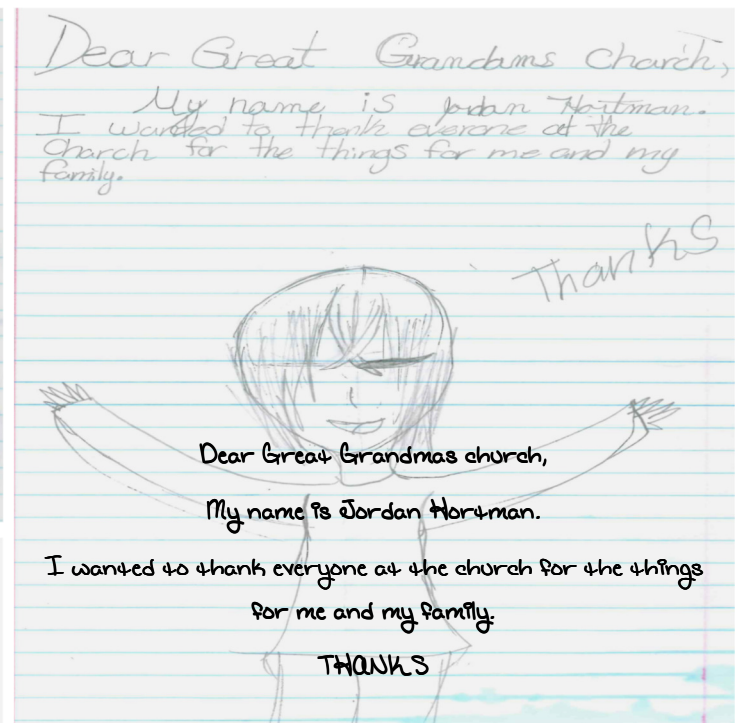
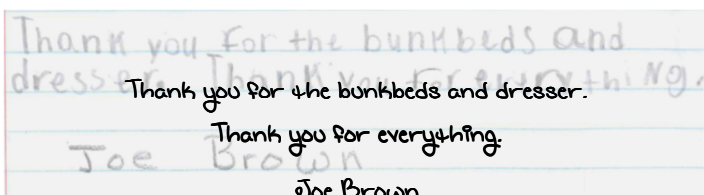
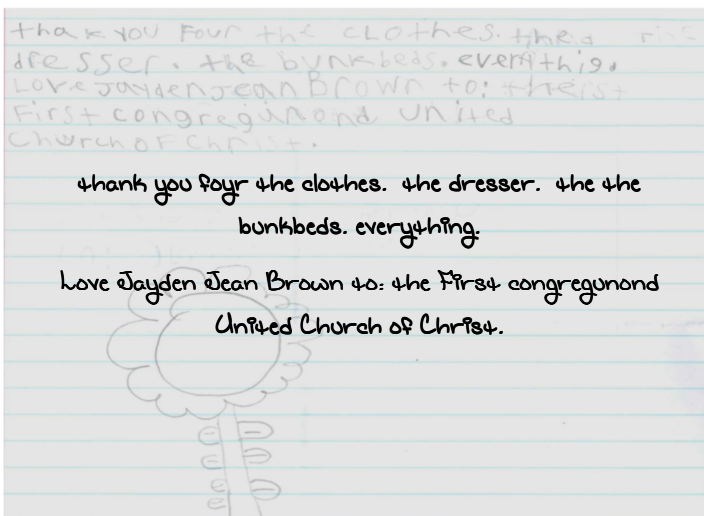
Tom & Sharon Kosier



I would like to take part of John 3:16 and reword it a little. For God so loved me that he gave me this church and all the people in it. The two words THANK YOU are not enough for how much I appreciate what you have done for my family this past two months. Thanks to you the four children have almost everything they need. With your help we have gotten them all bunk beds, dressers, sheets, blankets, clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, and winter coats. They still need winter boots, hats and gloves but we are working on that. Jordan and Joe are in middle school and doing good. Since grandpa and grandma have obligations tomorrow great grandma is going on a field trip with Joe. Jayden and Jason are in elementary school. Jayden is doing good. Jason, the youngest, is a special needs child and in school for the very first time. From the bottom of our hearts, my great grandchildren, son, daughter in-law, and I would like to thank you very much for all your generosity.

May the peace of the Lord be with each and everyone of you.

Mae Clark



EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

November 27, 2018

Call to Order

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Board Members present: Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Kim Dible Glasser, Tony Bray, Bil Turner, Julie Wilkinson and Chris Cypher. Also present Sue Sackett and Frieda Schneeberger.

Spiritual Reflection

Rich led the group in the Lord's Prayer

Open Forum

Sue informed the Trustees the square dance group would like to expand from two Friday evenings a month to four. There may be occasions when cleaning up by our staff will not work out, however, this group has usually been diligent about leaving the room as they found it. The Executive Board agreed to this expansion on a trial basis.

Sue has had a problem finding the standard brass cleaner she has been using for the alter pieces, and also wonders about refinishing these brass items. She will get a price for refinishing, report back and will also check with Darlene about what is used on the bells.

Consent Agenda

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

Treasurer's Report

After discussion, moved by Bil, seconded by Tony to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion passed.

Action and Discussion Items

Marjory Haueter Endowment Fund. Frieda informed the Board about a gift to the church from the estate of Marge Haueter. Frieda discussed the gift with the family and learned that it was Marge's wish that the gift be used to ensure that the church remains open and viable. The Endowment Committee has drafted language for the creation of the Marjory Haueter Endowment Fund, and the draft was presented to the Board. The two features of this Fund are that the interest may be used to support some line items within the Building & Grounds category, and that occasionally small amounts of principal may be used to support Facilities Maintenance. After discussion, moved by Julie, seconded by Fay to approve the language and to create the Marjory Haueter Endowment Fund. Motion passed.

2019 Church Budget. The 2019 budget as proposed by the Finance committee was passed out and briefly discussed. The budget will be an agenda item at the December Executive Board meeting.

Pastoral Care Update. Kim has agreed to be the point person for Pastoral Care within Congregational Life.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

Personnel Committee review with Pastor Barb. No one was present to provide an update.

Chimney Repair Update. Kim has heard back from Mark Stambaugh with an updated repair estimate. The present price is a \$400 increase from last spring, the new amount being \$6230. There is money available in a restricted fund for Building and Property Improvements. Moved by Bil, seconded by Tony to go forward with the repairs. Motion passed.

Stewardship Committee Update. Julie asked the Board to set dates for the key events in January. The Budget meeting will be January 13th and the Annual meeting will be January 27th.

December Executive Board meeting. After discussion the meeting was moved to December 18th.

Water Bills. Bil reviewed our water usage history with the City. Our usage was quite steady at 1000 to 1500 gallons per month for many years. Then in January of this year it increased dramatically and began to fluctuate significantly each month. It seems likely our leakage problem began then. After the recent repairs, we will need to watch our bills to see if they return to normal. He also learned that the fixed portion of our monthly charge for water is based on our meter size, and that we might be able to reduce that charge by changing to a smaller meter. There would be a one-time cost for changing the meter. The Board felt further detail should be pursued.

New Lock Box for the Office. Chris explained that the newly purchased lock box does not meet the needs for temporary storage of church funds. The opening is too small and the storage capacity of the box does not seem adequate. She also stated that she will be away for three weeks and will need someone to stand in as Financial Secretary.

Search Committee Update

The Committee will meet on December 3rd to continue the review of candidates.

New Business

No new business

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be December 18th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Bil Turner, Church Clerk



NEWS FROM THE FALL COVENANT ASSOCIATION

'Tis the season... for meetings! First Congregational UCC in Jackson hosted the Covenant Association on Nov. 10. In the United Church of Christ, congregations covenant together into Associations; the Covenant Association has just over 40 congregations. Associations (six, in our case) covenant together to form Conferences; I wrote about the Michigan Conference annual meeting last month. The thirty-eight Conferences meet together every two years at General Synod (in Wisconsin next year!). If you're curious about the wider church, an Association meeting is a great place to start - it's generally the smallest, shortest, and cheapest type of meeting!



We heard reports from previous recipients of Justice & Witness grants. Lansing Church of the Brethren reported on two projects. Plant Justice, Grow Peace is a program in collaboration with St. Stephens UCC. They meet monthly in Lansing to work on systemic issues; one focus right now is to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in MI to 18, so that not all 17-year-old defendants are automatically tried as adults. The other project is Loads of Love, which provides free loads of laundry, books, and snacks once a month at All Washed Up; the number of people served has varied from 7 to 34. Bethel UCC in Manchester reported on a vespers program, which offers worship and a free comfort food meal once a month, serving about 85 people.

After approving the Association budget, we discussed and approved a proposal to free up an additional \$15,000 to fund Justice & Witness grants with a focus on systemic change. The deadline was Nov. 30, but it may continue into future years, so keep this in mind if you have an idea for a project!

There were several announcements. EHM is dedicating a new rehab facility. You can read a short (300 words - about half the length of this article!) blurb each month about a person from UCC history; find it under UCC Roots on the Conference website (michucc.org) or sign up to get it by e-mail. Central Seminary in Ann Arbor offers various courses; some are meant for future ministers, and some are more of a stand-alone class for regular church folk.

The keynote speaker, Traci Bartell, spoke on congregational singing and led us in trying some songs. She spoke about the physiological and spiritual effects of singing and how it can build community. She also shared some questions to ponder when selecting songs to use in worship, and she provided a list of resources (both songbooks and information about singing).

I was able to attend two workshops. The first was on protecting the environment. I shared some of what we've done to recycle, to improve our lighting efficiency, and to dig out invasive plant species along the creek. Members of other churches shared their activities, such as installing solar panels (which also provides income), eliminating foam cups, composting food scraps, and using lower-impact products from fair-trade coffee to environmentally-friendly pizza boxes (sourced from BGreen in Ann Arbor). The second workshop I attended was on churches in transition; these included pastoral transitions like ours, but also new forms of ministry, selling church buildings, and new uses within a church building. Most of this one was aimed at pastors, with a focus on leadership and communication.

The spring meeting for Covenant Association will be at Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor; date is to be determined, but probably in April or May. Hope to see you there!

Virginia Scheifelbein

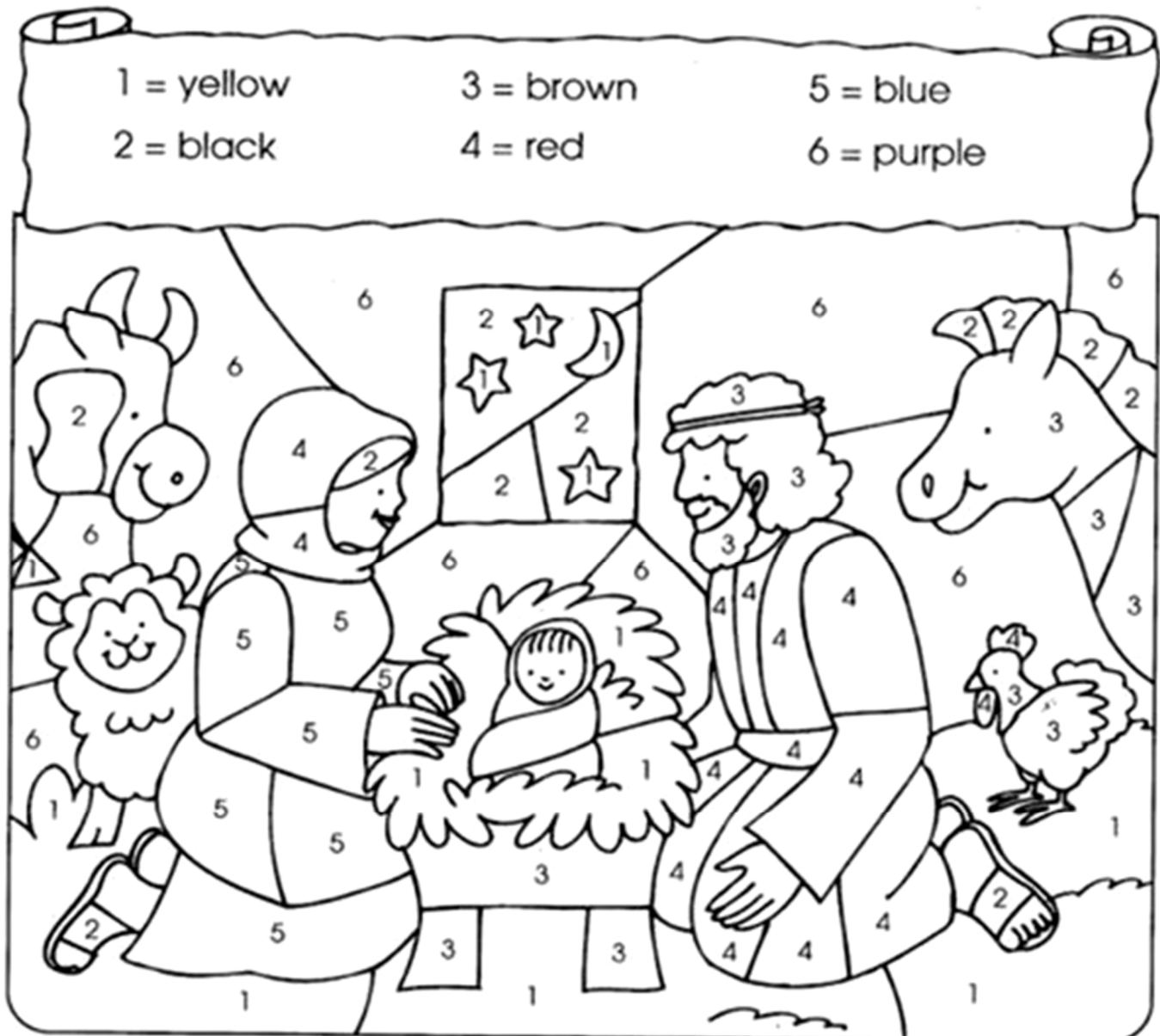
KID'S CORNER

God's Son Is Born

(Luke 2)

Mary and Joseph decided to stay in a stable. During the night, a wonderful thing happened! Mary gave birth to Jesus—God's own son. She wrapped Him in a cloth and placed Him in a manger.

Use the code to color the picture.



WHAT'S COOKING?

Jean Sheren's Peanut Butter Sheet Cake

1 c. water
 4T. Peanut butter
 2 sticks butter or margarine
 2 c. flour
 2 c. sugar
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1tsp. Vanilla
 2 eggs
 1/2 c. buttermilk

Cake:

In medium sauce pan, boil together water, peanut butter, and butter or margarine. In mixing bowl combine salt, flour, sugar and baking soda. Pour hot ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix all together. Add vanilla, eggs, and buttermilk. Bake on a cookie sheet at 350° for 20 minutes. Be ready to frost cake while hot.

Frosting:

1 stick butter or margarine
 4 T. peanut butter
 6 T. milk
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 1/2 boxes powdered sugar

Heat together in pan on stove butter or margarine, peanut butter, milk, vanilla and powdered sugar. Spread over warm cake.

Submitted by Jean Brown



Fool Proof Pie Crust

4 c. flour
 1 T. sugar
 2 tsp. salt
 1 3/4 c. shortening
 1/2 c. water
 1 T. white vinegar
 1 large egg

Stir together the flour, sugar, and salt. Cut shortening into the flour mixture. It should make pieces the size of peas. In another bowl, beat water, vinegar, and egg. Add the liquid to the flour and stir just till moist. Form into five portions and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Roll out and place in pie plates or tins. You may bake immediately or freeze raw with or without fruit filling (also raw) for up to a year. Tolerates much handling and maintains a good texture. A healthier version can be made with whole grain flour, Splenda (1 1/2 t.), Salt Sense, and Canola oil (1c.). This crust will be a brown color, but tastes great!!



Submitted by Darlene Banks

JANUARY 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat. |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
| December 30 10:30 am Worship January Newsletter Available | 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall | 2 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON | 3 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7-8:15 pm Yoga in Sanctuary 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA | 4 Office Closed | 5 |
| Jeannette on vacation | | | | | | |
| 6 10:30 am Worship Communion & Food Drive Family Service Choir De-Greening the Church | 7 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice | 8 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall | 9 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON | 10 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7-8:15 pm Yoga in Sanctuary 8:00 pm AA | 11 Office Closed 1:00 pm Congregator's Lunch @ LogJam Newsletter Items Due | 12 |
| 13 10:30 am Worship Sunday School BUDGET MEETING Bells | 14 1:00 pm SOR 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice | 15 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 6 pm Congregational Life | 16 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON | 17 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7-8:15 pm Yoga in Sanctuary 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA | 18 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Square Dance Newsletter Items Due | 19 |
| 20 10:30 am Worship Sunday School ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE Choir | 21 Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 p.m. Bell Practice | 22 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall | 23 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON | 24 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA | 25 Office Closed | 26 |
| 27 10:30 am Worship Sunday School ANNUAL MEETING & SOUP SUNDAY February Newsletter Available | 28 | 29 | 30 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON | 31 Noon / Meals on Wheels Senior Lunch @ City Hall 7:00 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA | February 1 Office Closed 7:30 pm Square Dance | 2 |

Sunday Schedule for JANUARY 2019

| Date | January 6th Epiphany White | January 13th Baptism of Christ White | January 20th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Green | January 27th 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Green |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|
| Text | Isa 6:1-6 Matt 2:1-12 | Isa 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17.21-22 | Isa 62:1-5 John 2:1-11 | Ps 19 Luke 4:14-21 |
| Head Usher | Lisa Reed | Gary and Kathy Burt | Leah Horn | Chris Cypher |
| Greeters | Jane Cosper and Sue Sackett | Patty Curtis and Charlene Avery | Gary and Chris Cypher | Gary and Kathy Burt |
| Ushers | Cheryl Mattson and Gla' Spayde | Nate Oliver and Erica Stoll | Kim Dible (Glasser) and Ron Erskine | Tony Bray and Rich Brown |
| Crucifer | Nate Oliver | | | |
| Liturgist | Anita Calcagno | Patty Curtis | Ron Erskine | Lisa Reed |
| Soundboard | Charlynn Walker | Mae Clark | Charlynn Walker | Karen Walker |
| Coffee Hour | Gary and Chris Cypher | Chad Frost and Chuck Byam | Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson | Annual Meeting - Soup Luncheon |
| Altar Flowers | CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY | | | |
| Nursery Care | Nicole Maier | Nicole Maier | Nicole Maier | Nicole Maier |
| Sunday School | Family Service | Lynn Hart | Beth Posey and Joy Leonard | Leah Horn |

Sunday Schedule for FEBRUARY 2019

| Date | February 3rd 4th Sunday after Epiphany Green | February 10th 5th Sunday after Epiphany Green | February 17th 6th Sunday after Epiphany Green | February 24th 7th Sunday after Epiphany Green |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| Text | Jer 1:4-10 Luke 4:21-30 | Isa 6:1-8, (9-13) Luke 5:1-11 | Jer 17:5-10 Luke 6:17-26 | Gen 45:3-11, 15 Luke 6:27-38 |
| Head Usher | Lisa Reed | Kathy Burt | Leah Horn | Tina Lamer |
| Greeters | Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson | Charlene Avery and Jane Cosper | Cheryl Mattson and Gla' Spayde | Ron Erskine and Anna Miller |
| Ushers | Gary and Chris Cypher | Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder | Gary and Kathy Burt | Charlynn and Karen Walker |
| Liturgist | Marcia Kent | Emily Mai | Ben Banks | Nate Oliver |
| Crucifer | Gary Burt | | | |
| Soundboard | Charlynn Walker | Julie Wilkinson | Charlynn Walker | Mae Clark |
| Coffee Hour | Gary and Kathy Burt | Charlene Avery and Patty Curtis | Marcia Kent and Kim Dible (Glasser) | Leah Horn and Gla' Spayde |
| Altar Flowers | CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A DATE OR SIGN-UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALLWAY | | | |
| Nursery Care | Nicole Maier | Nicole Maier | Nicole Maier | Nicole Maier |
| Sunday School | Family Service Souper Bowl of Caring | Paul and Thea Oatman | Paul and Thea Oatman | Paul and Thea Oatman |



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grandledgeucc.org

*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

The Rev. Barbara Edema, Bridge Pastor
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Judy Nielsen, Organist
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Nursery Care - Nicole Maier
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &
BOARD CHAIRS**

Richard Brown, Moderator
Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Bil Turner, Clerk
Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Chris Cypher, Financial Secretary
Lynn Hart, Christian Education
Lisa Reed and Kim Dible (Glasser) Congregational Life
Charlene Avery and Tony 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**