

THE CHURCH WINDOW



JULY 2019



WELCOME PASTOR	1
EMERGENCY COVERAGE	1
SIREN/EATON SHELTER	1
BEAUTIFUL LETTER	2
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH	2
CONGREGATORS	2
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	3
INCOME & EXPENSE	3
GUSTAFSON	4
ENDOWMENT	4
PAPERGATOR	4
COFFEE HOUR	4
ALTAR FLOWERS	4
SENIOR LUNCH	4
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK	5
STOCK THE SHELVES	5
BIRTHDAYS	5
EXECUTIVE BOARD	6
SCHEDULE	7
CALENDAR	INSERT

210 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
grandledgeucc.org

Phone 517-627-2336 Fax 517-627-4539
Church E-mail office@grandledgeucc.org
Pastor's E-mail pastor@grandledgeucc.org

WELCOME PASTOR LAURA MILLER-PURRENHAGE



Pastor Laura will officially **begin her ministry with FCUCC on Monday, July 1st**. If you have not had a chance to meet Pastor Laura yet, please join us in welcoming her with a special coffee hour following worship service on **Sunday, July 7th**. Pastor Laura's ordination is scheduled for **Sunday, June 30th at 4:00 p.m. at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing**. Everyone is invited to attend! Remember that Pastor Laura's start date is **July 1st**, please wait until that date to contact her. Thank you!

EMERGENCY COVERAGE FOR FCUCC UNTIL JULY 1ST



Thank you Pastor Dave Forsberg of Delta Township for providing emergency pastoral care for FCUCC. We appreciate all your help through our time of transition .

BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT FOR SIREN/EATON

We have a change of plans for our traditional summer project for Back to School clothing for kids living with their families at the SIREN/Eaton shelter in Charlotte. As you know, the shelter is for survivors of domestic abuse. SIREN's theme is **"We Rise by Lifting Others,"** and it is our joy every summer to help with the lifting. This summer SIREN requests that we give gift cards from Meijer or Walmart, a check or cash that we will turn into a gift card, so that children can shop for their own clothes and backpacks. All the shopping will be done by two SIREN staff who LOVE taking the children to Meijer or Walmart. Please take a moment to read the beautiful letter written by a SIREN child asking to choose for her/himself. (page 2)

Sunday, **July 7**, will be Pastor Laura's first Sunday with us. Let's show her how we love this Back to School project by bringing gift cards, cash, or a check made out to FCUCC. There will be special envelopes in the bulletin on July 7 as well as a supply on the narthex table. We would like to use just **July 7 and July 14** Sundays for our giving so SIREN can take advantage of back to school clothing sales which start mid-July. Plus, this year, since children need more than one or two new outfits in their growing years, SIREN is partnering with Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center for additional things like shoes, socks, underwear and personal care items. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Your Outreach team: Charlene, Tony, Sandy and Sarah



BEAUTIFUL LETTER



Siren / Eaton Shelter

Serving domestic violence survivors and homeless families in Eaton County.
 P.O. Box 369 – 520 Robinson, Charlotte, MI 48813 (Off Lansing Rd.)
Office 517-543-0748 • Fax 517-543-0883 • Crisis Line 517-543-4915

Dear Friend,

Just a few more weeks before summer's over and school starts. I was excited to see my friends and meet my new teacher, that is, until I thought about how most of my school clothes don't fit anymore. The ones that do fit are old and torn. My backpack has a hole in it and the zipper is broken. How can I start that first day with everyone else showing off their new school outfit and their cool new backpack and me with nothing new? It made me sad.

Then my mom told me that her caseworker at SIREN is going to help get me some new things for school. That made me so happy! She said that nice people like you wanted to make sure that I had new clothes and shoes and all of the things I would need for school. I can't wait to go shopping to pick out my outfit for the first day of school. I really like TMNT (that's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in case you didn't know). I want a shirt and shoes with TMNT on them.

Here in Charlotte there are two stores where I like to shop, Meijer and Walmart. They both have so many cool things for a kid like me. I hope that it won't hurt your feelings that I want to pick out my own clothes. If you give SIREN cash or gift cards for Meijer or Walmart, then I can pick out exactly the things I want in just the size I need. SIREN has volunteers available to schedule appointments with families to take them shopping. My mom and I are going to have so much fun shopping together.

Now when I think about starting school, I am very excited. I am going to have new things just like the other kids. I think this is going to be the best school year yet. Thank you!

Your friend,
 "Logan"

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Strengthen the Church collection on **Sunday, June 9**. STC supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

CONGREGATORS

It brings sunshine to our lives to get together...and in this spring's wet and cloudy days, a little sunshine is a wonderful gift! Nine Congregators had a lovely lunch with a round robin of discussion and the chance to hear about Glá's recent trip to Alaska. Thanks to Kathy and Freida who picked up, dropped off, pulled up an extra table at the Log Jam as the expected number grew (always a good thing!), and made dessert in Sandy's and Charlene's absence! Our next time to be together will be **Friday, July 12**, 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.**

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, Doris B., Lili B., Kathy H., Debbie M., Cindy G., Carole S., Barbara N., Geri L. Robert E., Larry and Carol S., Ben B., Jim H., and all who are still recovering from hurricanes, earthquake and 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.

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET

	Actual May 2019	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date	Actual Budget
Income	\$ 9,355.79	\$ 53,951.67	\$ 58,355.79	\$129,484.00
Expenses	<u>5,662.37</u>	<u>53,281.25</u>	<u>42,669.55</u>	<u>127,875.00</u>
Balance	\$ 3,693.42	\$ 670.42	\$ 15,686.24	\$ 1,609.00



Now that we have a new settled pastor, we must realize that our expenses will increase as we pay her salary and insurances and other expenses that will occur. We are also in the summer months which results in less heating expenses for the church. The quarterly payment for the building insurance is due in June. With the generous outpouring of support from this congregation that shows in the current actual positive balance. With your continued support, even though it is expected that the positive balance will go down, we will complete our goal this year and finish with a positive balance.

Our hope for the future is to increase our giving and reduce our expenses so that we will be able to support full-time pastor. With the positive outlook that this church is giving in 2019, we will soon be able to reach our goal.

PARKING LOT REPAIR

The “low spot” in the parking lot will be repaired later this summer. The maintenance group has a bid of about \$4500 to do the work, and the Executive Board has voted to go forward. If you would like to help defray the cost to complete this work, “Parking Lot” envelopes will be available on the table in the narthex. Please note on your check “Parking Lot”, so the money can be directed to that project.
THANK YOU!



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.

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!**

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.

COFFEE HOUR FUND

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!

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.

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.



FOOD BANK



Grand Ledge Food Bank
4980 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. - 5:00 p.m.

In **June** First Congregational UCC delivered **130 food items, 19 non-food item** to the Grand Ledge food bank. Thank you for your help.



STOCK THE SHELVES

BIRTHDAYS

For July, we are concentrating on only food and school supplies.

Thanks for helping.

FOOD SUGGESTIONS

- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Ramen Noodles
- Ranch, French and Italian Salad Dressing
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

All standard school supplies and new back packs

GIFT SHOP

- Cleaning supplies
- Deodorant
- Baby shampoo and wash
- Receiving Blankets

- Chris Cypher
- Tom Bernardi
- Tina Lamer
- Karen Ramthun
- Anita Calcagno
- Elva Maguire
- Patty Curtis
- Janet Harmon
- Becky Ramos
- Reshay Tanasse
- Molly Coomber
- Joe Gilson
- Bob Sackett
- Jane Cosper



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

April 23, 2019

Call to Order

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

Board Members present: Charlene Avery, Bruce Ramthun, Lynn Hart, Fay Schroeder, Rich Brown, Anita Calcagno, Kim Dible, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Julie Wilkinson, Linda Gooley, and Marcia Kent.

Spiritual Reflection

Karen lead our spiritual reflection.

Open Forum

No one was present for this item

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda was adopted.

Items removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

Action and Discussion Items

Call Agreement

Karen presented a recommended Call Agreement for Pastor Laura. We discussed using conference guidelines and to consider Pastor Laura's prior experience as a professor when looking at her years of service and following salary guidelines. The group felt that although Laura would be starting with 0 years of experience as a pastor she does bring many years of service in leadership and as a teacher. This aligns with the skillsets our congregation can benefit from. The recommendation for the Call Agreement was to set her salary as if she came in with 5 years of experience. This was approved.

Pastor Laura Weekend

Discussed the Candidacy Weekend of May 18-19. Saturday May 18 from 2-4 there will be a reception and the search committee will be asked to bring some light snacks. Laura will prepare and carry out service on Sunday May 19. Following service we will take a vote with the Congregation to Call Laura and there will be coffee hour to follow.

Pastoral Coverage

Linda shared an update that we have identified people to serve in leading worship service through June 30th.

Annual Grounds Work

Discussed the need for another individual to organize an annual grounds clean up. The suggestion was to ask the congregation to all pitch in with helping with the grounds clean up after service on May 5th. This would be similar to how we have handled the Hanging of the Greens around the holiday. Charlene offered to make an announcement on April 27th and request that the congregation stay after worship to help with this. Fay and Charlene will collaborate on a list of things, such as wheelbarrow or hand tools, that the congregation could bring with them on May 5th to pitch and help.

Yoga Class

Discussed the topic of the small group of individuals using the building for yoga and if the church expected to be compensated for their use of the building. We had previously agreed that since a member had expressed interest in using the space for yoga and that it was considered a Community Outreach opportunity, we affirmed that a building use payment is not needed.

Parking Lot

The Maintenance team has agreed to help identify someone that can fix the dip in the parking lot entryway. Tina has identified several potential companies to use and the team needs to contact them and get estimates.

New Business

Anita shared that the personnel committee had met and reviewed employee job descriptions and also put together an employee handbook/guidelines. Employees will receive a copy of the employee guidelines upon being hired and/or at the time of their annual review for existing employees.

Rich presented a number of housekeeping items that were shared with him. Those using the kitchen should be making sure utensils are being cleaned. A sign is posted in the kitchen to remind people of this. The folding chairs in the garage need to either be recycled or donated. Anita offered to handle this. The cushion corners of the seating area in the narthex should be covered as the sun is fading them. Kim offered to work with the head ushers and add this as a responsibility this group handles. The boiler will need to be turned off. Rich will reach out to Jeanette and request to have whomever came out to turn on the boiler come out to turn it off.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

Sunday Schedule for JULY 2019

Date	July 7th 4th Sunday after Pentecost Green	July 14th 5th Sunday after Pentecost Green	July 21st 6th Sunday after Pentecost Green	July 28th 7th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	2 Kings 5:1-14 and Ps 30 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Amos 7:7-17 and Ps 82 Luke 10:25-37	Amos 8:1-12 and Ps 52 Luke 10:38-42	Hos 1:2-10 and Ps 85 Luke 11:1-13
Head Usher	Leah Horn	Jane Gilson	Kim Dible	Lisa Reed
Greeters	Gary and Kathy Burt	Joy Leonard and Fay Schroeder	John and Freida Schneeberger	Bil Turner and Ron Erskine
Ushers	Bruce Ramthun and Charlene Avery	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Nate Olive and Erica Stoll	Joe and Jane Gilson
Crucifer	Gary Burt			
Liturgist	Karen Ramthun	Rich Brown	Freida Schneeberger	Bil Turner
Soundboard	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Congregational Life and Pastoral Search Committee	Marcia Kent and Sarah Robinson	Kim Dible and Charlene Avery	Fay Schroeder 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	Sunday School Resumes in Fall	Sunday School Resumes in Fall	Sunday School Resumes in Fall	Sunday School Resumes in Fall
Fresh Perspective	Pastor Laura Miller – Purrenhage	Pastor Laura Miller- Purrenhage	Marcia Kent	Karen Holcomb-Merrill

Sunday Schedule for AUGUST 2019

Date	August 4th 8th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 11th 9th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 18th 10th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 25th 11th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Hos 11:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	Isa 1:1, 10-20 Luke 12:32-40	Isa 5:1-7 Luke 12:49-56	Jer 1:4-10 Luke 13:10-17
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Emily Mai	Jane Gilson	Chris Cypher
Greeters	Gary and Chris Cypher	Jim and Sarah Robinson	Fay Schroeder and Patty Curtis	Bil Turner and Ben Banks
Ushers	Joe and Jane Gilson	Anna Miller and Sue Sackett	Bruce Ramthun and Kim Dible	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Sue Sackett	Karen Ramthun	Anita Calcagno
Crucifer	Bruce Ramthun			
Soundboard	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Adam and Allie Stevens	Bruce and Karen Ramthun	Ben and Darlene Banks	Gary and Chris Cypher
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	Sunday School Resumes in Fall	Sunday School Resumes in Fall	Sunday School Resumes in Fall	Sunday School Resumes in Fall



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336

Fax: 517- 627- 4539

Office E-mail: office@grandledgeucc.org

Pastor's E-mail: pastor@grandledgeucc.org

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

Rev. Laura Miller-Purrenhage
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Judy Nielsen, Organist
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Nicole Maier, Nursery Care Provider
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &
BOARD CHAIRS**

Richard Brown, Moderator
Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Bil Turner, Clerk
Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary
Marcia Kent, Christian Education
Lisa Reed and Kim Dible, 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**