

THE CHURCH WINDOW



SEPTEMBER
2019



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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
Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage 517-374-0145

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

As I see all the pictures of kids going back to school on Facebook and watch my two youngest start new adventures (Katie is leaving this Saturday to study in Germany, and Emily is starting her junior year in high school), I am reminded of all the emotions that surround new beginnings. For many of our kids returning to school, there's excitement and happiness that they will get to see their friends again. Some are relieved that the boredom that can come from a summer of unstructured activity is over. Many are nervous or afraid—afraid that they won't fit in, that their hoped-for plans won't work out, that they will get lost, that people will be mean. Or they might just be afraid of change, frustrated that this new school or class isn't like their old one. Teachers, administrators, and staff experience a similar range of emotions, often for similar reasons. One of the differences for them is that, as leaders, their actions and decisions will probably have a more wide-reaching impact, knowing that can provide a different level of stress.

I can't help but draw an analogy between this new beginning and our new beginning as a church. We are so excited to be starting this new journey together and so happy to have found one another! But, like any new beginning, we probably also feel a range of other emotions that include uncertainty, worry, and discomfort with change. The fact that the church has moved from a full-time pastor to a bi-vocational pastor is a pretty big change. As church members take on more responsibility for the church and as we all try to figure out what our roles in this new structure are, it can be helpful to utilize the tools we use to support our young ones, teachers, administrators and staff in their transition: especially self-compassion, grace and curiosity. We will probably make mistakes, forget things, or leave things undone because we thought others were going to do them. Let us have compassion on ourselves, then, knowing that in times of transition these things happen. Others may hurt our feelings or fail to do something that we thought they were going to do. Let us grant them grace, knowing that this is a confusing time and that we are called to be a people of grace in all times. Finally, this new structure could sometimes be confusing and that can lead to frustration or worry. So let us approach it with curiosity and a sense of wondering. It's okay if we don't get this new structure "right," because I'm not sure there is a "right." What matters most is that we are a beloved community, drawn together by God on this exciting new journey together.

Amen.

...beloved community, drawn together by God on this exciting new journey together.

SISTERS OF RUTH

Sisters of Ruth (SOR) will begin the 2019-2020 program year on **Monday, September 9th**. We are meeting in the church parking lot at 12:15 p.m. and will be carpooling to Mooville for lunch and ICE CREAM.



We will plan our program calendar year and discuss our community service projects. We would love to have you join us to see what we are all about. Please contact any SOR member for more information. Mae C., Chris C., Cheryl M., RoAnne B., and Fay S.

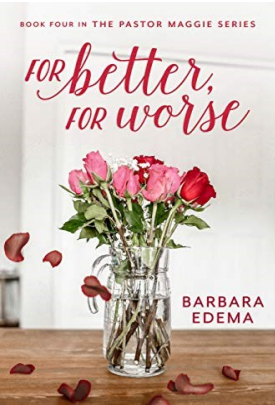
CONGREGATORS

At our August Congregators gathering, it was rather nice to have six people for our luncheon. Everyone could hear every word and participate in every conversation, many that revolved around memories of Congregator gatherings many, many years ago. Our next time together will be **Friday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the LogJam in Grand Ledge**. 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.

WGOD

Women Gathering Over Devotions (WGOD) discuss books that are inspirational and educational. Our discussions are intended to help us in our everyday lives. This year our meeting dates will be on the third Tuesday of each month. It is our hope that with this change more individuals will be able to join our meetings.

Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 17, 2019**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will cost between \$3 and \$5. We will be discussing Pastor Barbara Edema’s latest book, “For Better For Worse.” Pastor Barb writes about life’s situations that we all have at one time and tells us how Pastor Maggie deals with them. They teach us very valuable lessons that we can use in everyday situations. Please join us for a very interesting, educational, and inspiring discussion. We will also determine the next book that we will be reading.



CRAFT BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE



Everyone, get out your sewing machines, knitting needles, crochet hooks, paint brushes, saws, and whatever tools you use to make crafts. The First Congregational United Church of Christ **Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale** will be held on **Saturday, December 7, 2019**. We will have vendors again this year. Also, please reserve a few hours on that day to help at the bazaar. Many hands make little work. We will need people to work at our booth and to help clean up after the sale. The sale will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We usually finish cleaning up between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. So you will still have time to plan for an exciting evening out or at home.

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

Last year, I attended a wonderful training called **“Doing Our Own Work: Anti-Racism Workshop for White People.”** I learned a great deal from it and formed some wonderful partnerships with others who are committed to this difficult work. I strongly recommend this training. If you are interested in taking part in this training yourself, please see the flyer on page 6. Pastor Laura

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 mourn: The family and friends of Lyle O’Boyle.

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, flooding 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 July 2019	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date	Actual Budget
Income	\$ 9,874.32	\$ 79,032.73	\$ 75,532.33	\$129,484.00
Expenses	<u>7,864.99</u>	<u>56,286.62</u>	<u>74,593.75</u>	<u>127,875.00</u>
Balance	\$ 2,009.53	\$ 22,746.62	\$ 938.58	\$ 1,609.00




Our congregation continues to make progress towards ending the year with a positive balance. In the warmer months, our expenses tend to be less. With our blessing of a new pastor, our expenses have increased and expenses will continue to increase as the weather gets colder.

Our hope for the future is to increase our giving and reduce our expenses so that we will be able to support a 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!



<p>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.</p>	<div><p>PAPERGATOR KEEPING THE EARTH GREEN</p><p>http://papergatorrecycling.com/</p><p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot and it's hungry!</p></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:</p>
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ALTAR FLOWERS	ENDOWMENT FUND
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<div><p>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.</p></div>	<p>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.</p> <p>Endowment applications are available in the church office.</p> <p>If you are interested in making a donation to this fund please contact the church office.</p> <div><p>PLANT A SEED CREATE A <i>Legacy</i></p></div>
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SENIOR LUNCH

Seniors are 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.

The July food count was 288 food items, 19 non-food items and 76 school supplies. The August food count was 231 food items, 28 non-food items and 120 school supplies. Great work!



STOCK THE SHELVES

BIRTHDAYS

FOOD SUGGESTIONS

- Boxed Potatoes
- Rice Mixes
- Gravy
- Broth
- Snack Granola Bars
- Hamburger and Tuna Helper
- Stuffing Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Italian, Ranch and French Salad Dressing
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Canned Peaches and Pears
- Clean, empty 8 oz. and 10 oz. screw top beverage bottles (ex. Boost) **(Please do not donate 16 oz. bottles.** They are too large. We use the small bottles to divide shampoo and laundry detergent so the large donated containers can serve more clients.)
- Adult Toothbrushes

MAINTENANCE ASSISTENCE

We are in urgent need of help with minor repair and staining of the front and back ramps to the food bank. The materials will be provided.

Thanks so much for helping the Grand Ledge community through the Food and Clothing Bank. It is great to be working as one team, in Christ, to serve our neighbors.

Peace, Cheryl Mulder (513-325-6302)

- 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



ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

October 4-5, November 8-9, and December 13-14, 2019, in Lansing, Michigan

DOING OUR OWN WORK: AN ANTI-RACISM SEMINAR FOR WHITE PEOPLE

At this time in our nation, we are witnessing an alarming resurgence of white supremacy and state sanctioned violence. It is imperative that those of us who are white do the deep work required to claim and embody an anti-racist identity, understand the privilege we carry, and interrupt racism where we live, work, study, and volunteer. *Doing Our Own Work* helps white people move through places where we often get stuck, so that we can step up with courage, clarity, humility, and compassion to participate in movements led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action. Enrollment is limited to 20 people to facilitate in-depth reflection, dialogue and relationship building.

Doing Our Own Work is designed as a supplement to, not a substitute for, contexts where people of diverse races discuss and strategize together how racism can best be challenged and dismantled.

The seminar consists of more than 40 hours of "class time." Anti-racist action and reflection form the heart of *Doing Our Own Work*. Each participant is invited to identify a "sphere of influence" that serves as the focus of action and reflection. Utilizing input from the leaders, assigned readings, videos, group discussion, and structured exercises; we will explore the following topics and issues, among others:

- The four realms of racism: personal, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural
- Historical roots of racism in the United States.
- Movements for racial justice in the U.S.
- White privilege and unearned advantage
- Claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity
- Practicing the skills of interrupting racism
- Strategies for institutional change
- How to sustain this lifelong work
- Developing relationships of support and accountability.



Emily Joye McGaughy, facilitator



Liz Miller, facilitator

The facilitators are committed to working with participants to create a respectful, loving, and truth-telling environment where we may bring our whole selves to this vitally important work.

Dates: October 4-5, November 8-9, and December 13-14. **Attendance at all six sessions is required.**

Time: Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Facilitator Team: Emily Joye McGaughy and Liz Miller

Location: Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner Rd., Lansing, MI. Facilities are barrier-free.

Cost: \$575. The cost includes program, resource materials, snacks, and beverages for all six days. Scholarships and/or time payments available. We are committed to making this seminar financially accessible to all who wish to participate. A \$100 nonrefundable deposit will hold your place in the seminar.

Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. For more information visit them at facebook.com/Allies-for-Change-207930359256/

THANKS FOR BRIGHT SMILES!

Many thanks for your generous giving of 35 toothbrushes, 30 tubes of toothpaste, 25 sticks of deodorant, a nail kit and a hair kit. The staff at Ken’s Closet were very happy to receive your gifts as their supplies were pretty much depleted with the growing numbers of families coming in for items before the start of school, which began on August 19!



BIBLE STUDY - PRAYING THE PSALMS

JUANITA RYAN

PRAYING
THE PSALMS

The Thursday afternoon Bible study will begin at **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12th** in the choir room. We will be doing a 9-week study on “Praying the Psalms”.

Come find out what the Psalms say about grief, dependence, trust, distress, hope, joy, and many other experiences we encounter on a daily basis.

If you have any questions or to reserve a book please call or e-mail Judy Nielsen at 882-0608, judithnielsen37@gmail.com

Whoever wrote this poem is a genius

Ugly Pretty

I'm very ugly
So don't try to convince me that
I am a very beautiful person
Because at the end of the day
I hate myself in every single way
And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying
There is beauty inside of me that matters
So rest assured I will remind myself
That I am a worthless, terrible person
And nothing you say will make me believe
I still deserve love
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to be loved
And I am in no position to believe that
Beauty does exist within me
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think
Am I as ugly as people say?

(Now read bottom up)

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY

Thanks to Colin Nelson 12-14-2009

HOZEKIAH FOUND THIS RACE WITH MOSES AND PETER TO BE GROSSLY UNFAIR

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY

(See Exodus 14) 12-18-2003

MAN I ALWAYS KNEW THAT THIS FISH IDENTIFICATION CHART WOULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“Let Your Light Shine”

This is going to be an awesome year! Join the Christian Education Board and Worship team on **September 22 as we kick off this next year with lights, sparkle and style for both adults and children (separately) at 9:30 a.m.!** If you have black lights or disco/spinning light that you would be willing to loan out for **Rally Sunday, September 15**, or for use throughout the year in Sunday school, please contact Marcia Kent (contact info below). There will be a **potluck following the worship service on Rally Sunday, September 15**, so bring a dish to pass and a big appetite.

We are excited to offer a special opportunity for the adults to share their faith with the kids this year -- “Light Reflections” –a 5-minute portion of Sunday School. The kids are going to love getting to know you better! Contact Marcia Kent to sign up to let your light shine.

We are asking for volunteers to **let their light shine** by teaching Sunday school—a 30-45-minute opportunity to come along side our kids and help them develop their relationship with God and with the congregation. Lessons are prepped and ready to go for you using the SHINE curriculum. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Marcia Kent. We would like to have one teacher and one helper for each Sunday. If you have not been screened, or your screening has expired, you will need to provide a copy or examination of driver’s license for screening if you have not already done so. The safety of our kids is always a priority.

We are excited to give you a preview of the adult education opportunities for this fall and winter:

- **August 9th: 6-week book discussion: “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City” by Matthew Desmond**
- **November 10th: 4-week series: Let your light shine in the Advent Conspiracy - take out consumerism and put in more heart and light in Christmas**
- **Seminar: How to let your light Shine in Sermon preparation and delivery**
- **Seminar: How to let your light shine with kids—Make Your ‘Light Reflection’ Sparkle**

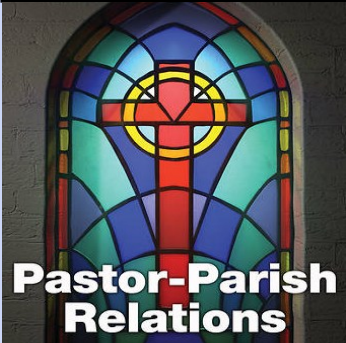
Marcia Kent

Christian Education Director

marciadkent@gmail.com

206-300-1475—text or phone

PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE FORMED



A Pastor-Parish Relations Committee has been formed and the members are Charlene Avery, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Leah Horn, Marcia Kent, and Tamara Lipsey. The purpose of this committee is to support a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation in order to enhance the effectiveness of the church’s ministry. Our church has had these committees in the past, yet with different names. The committee will serve as an advisory group and a support group for Pastor Laura. It provides safe space for the pastor and members to share. Karen is chairing this committee, so please feel free to get in touch with her if you have any questions.

CROP WALK - Get your walking shoes ready!

This year’s **CROP WALK** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 13th**. Please mark you calendars and plan to participate. More details coming soon.



July 23, 2019

Call to Order

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

Board Members present: Charlene Avery, Fay Schroeder, Lynn Hart, Kim Dible, Anita Calcagno, Rich Brown, Marsha Kent, Julie Wilkinson, and Bil Turner.

Spiritual Reflection

Rich led the group in the Lord’s Prayer.

Open Forum

No one was present for this item.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

Action and Discussion Items

Parking lot update. Lynn reported that so far, members and friends have donated \$1580 to support the parking lot project. A check for half the cost of the project has been sent to the contractor as an initial payment for the work.

Christian Education update.

Marsha informed the Executive Board that “Let your light shine” will be the theme for the instructional year. This will involve exploring relationships with one another and with God. The Christian Ed Board plans on having adult members explain to the children their own relationship with God, in brief discussions.

Marsha explained that moving Sunday School to before church is being considered by the Christian Education Board. They realize that there are both pros and cons to such a change. The decision can be made by the Christian Education Board, but the Executive Board should be kept informed.

Rally Sunday. Rally Sunday will be September 15th. There will be Sunday School displays. A Potluck is being considered.

Maintenance projects. The kitchen and bathroom faucets are repaired. The towel dispenser has been ordered. The Wilkinson's did some spraying in the parking lot. Charlene and Kim pulled weeds. Ceiling fans will be discussed in September.

A fall yard work day will be organized and a list of potential workers will be developed.

New Business

Movie theater advertisement. The ad is up and running now.

Water meter change. Potential cost savings by changing the water meter had been discussed some months ago. Bil will look into this possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 27th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk

SEPTEMBER 2019

[illegible]

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2019					
Date	September 1st 12th Sunday after Pentecost Green	September 8th 13th Sunday after Pentecost Green	September 15th RALLY SUNDAY Green	September 22nd 15th Sunday after Pentecost Green	September 29th 16th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Psalm 112 Luke 14:1, 7-14	Psalm 1 Luke 14:25-33	Psalm 51:1-10 Luke 15:1-10	Psalm 113 Luke 16:1-13	Psalm 146 Luke 16:19-31
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Gary Burt	Kathy Burt	Leah Horn	Chris Cypher
Greeters	James Robinson and Ron Erskine	Nate Oliver and Erica Stoll	Ben Banks and Bruce Ramthun	Bil Turner and Jim Robinson	Fay Schroeder and Mae Clark
Ushers	James Robinson and Ron Erskine	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Gary and Chris Cypher	Charlene Avery and Anna Miller	John and Freida Schneeberger
Crucifer	TBD				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Ben Banks	Joe Gilson	Bil Turner	Anita Calcagno
Soundboard	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	Gary and Kathy Burt	RALLY SUNDAY POTLUCK	Erica Stoll and Nate Oliver	Elva Maguire and Terry Bouck
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 Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney
Sunday School	Sunday School Resumes on 09/22	Sunday School Resumes on 09/22	Rally Sunday Sunday School Resumes on 09/22	Sunday School Begins	Sunday School
Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2019					
Date	October 6th 17th Sunday after Pentecost Green	October 13th 18th Sunday after Pentecost Green	October 20th 19th Sunday after Pentecost Green	October 27th 20th Sunday after Pentecost Green	
Text	2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-18	2 Timothy 18:9-14 Luke 19:9-14	
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Jane Gilson	Kathy Burt	Chris Cypher	
Greeters	Jane and Joe Gilson	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Bil Turner and Ron Erskine	Gary and Chris Cypher	
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Karen and Charlynn Walker	Sue Sackett and Ben Banks	Gary and Kathy Burt	
Liturgist	Karen Ramthun	Joe Gilson	Ron Erskine	Erica Stoll	
Crucifer	Nate Oliver				
Soundboard	Charlynn Walker	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	
Coffee Hour	Chad Frost and Chuck Byam	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	Fay Schroeder and Mae Clark	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	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	
Sunday School	FAMILY SERVICE	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School	



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
Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage 517-374-0145

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	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary
Sue Sackett, Custodian	Marcia Kent, Christian Education
Nicole Maier, Nursery Care Provider	Lisa Reed and Kim Dible, Congregational Life
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	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**