

# THE CHURCH WINDOW



# December 2019



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. --John 1:5**

I love the season of Advent--the music, the crisp, cold air, the quiet hush that seems to fill all the world in the early morning and late evening, and the joyful anticipation of Christ's birth. For the past several years, I have added two rituals to my Advent time of waiting. Almost every evening, I bundle up with my family and go for a walk through the neighborhood to look at Christmas lights. If the weather is just way too cold, we drive. We try to turn through different side streets each evening so we can see different houses. I love the variety of what we see and hear! Some houses use a minimalist approach—just gold lights around the top of the house and porch. Others use multicolored lights, some blinking, some consistently burning. Some have music playing, while others are silent. Recently, many houses have laser light projections of various and beautiful holiday shapes. And then there are the houses with the giant inflatable Snoopies or be-hatted dogs, or (my favorite last year) Star wars paraphernalia. All are unique and beautiful.

My second ritual is to find time almost every day to sit quietly in my living room with most of the house lights off and the Christmas tree lights on. I am usually curled up under a fuzzy blanket with at least one cat in my lap (our family has four). Both of these rituals fill my soul with peace, as I take time out of my day to just be, surrounded by beauty and light. For this reason, I will be following one of Pastor Nicolette's traditions and will open the sanctuary during Advent on **Wednesday evenings from 5-7** for quiet reflection. The sanctuary will be dimmed, but our Christmas lights and candles lit.

There is something profoundly calming about seeing these lights in the darkness. Whether I am consciously thinking of Jesus or not during those times, the symbolism still works its way into my soul. At Advent, we are waiting for the promised light of Jesus to come, but seeing these various lights reminds me that he has already come. His light shines even in the darkness of these difficult times, bringing us all peace, and beauty, and love.

And so I urge you, during this Advent season, to take time to simply rest with God. Seek out spaces where there is light in darkness. Let it fill your soul with the hope and promises of love that Christ brings. Amen.

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our first worship service in this church was on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1969. This year on **Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**, our worship service will include a presentation about our transition from the old church and our 50 years in this building.



SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

CONGREGATORS

Sisters of Ruth did not meet in November due to the bad weather. Our next meeting will be on **December 9, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. at the Log Jam.**

Sisters of Ruth will be collecting new and gently used baby items for the **Baby Jesus Tree**. The items are collected and taken to the Grand Ledge Food Bank just before Christmas for them to be given to families with very young babies to help celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

WGOD

Kathy and Kay made a great dinner of chicken tortilla soup, fruit, and dessert on November 19, 2019. After dinner, we finished the book "Shades of Light". A book that taught us a few things about mental illness.

Our next meeting will be **January 21, 2020** as we do not meet in December. Our new book is "Girlfriends" by Barbara Essex. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for dinner that Jane and Connie have volunteered to prepare. Dinner will cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00. We will then discuss the Introduction and chapters 1 and 2 of our chosen book. We are ordering the book through the UCC Resources. Please let Fay know if you want a book. We will order the books on Dec. 10 for our January 21, 2020 meeting.


We had a lively conversation as ten of us gathered for the last time in 2019. As Veterans Day was just a few days ago, we prompted Jim and Gerry to share their WWII experiences. Jim volunteered for the Army as soon as he graduated from high school in 1944 and after training, was sent to Italy in a field artillery unit. Gerry was a young bride who took her baby daughter home to live with her mother when her husband was sent to Alaska for the Army Signal Corps. How we treasure our Veterans and their families! We reminisced about many things, including the men's group that met many years ago, and heard how they enjoyed each other's company as they cooked together...one time making chili with venison. And of course, we talked about plans for Thanksgiving. We are not meeting in December as is our tradition. The next date for lunch will be **Friday, January 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the LogJam**, weather permitting. **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!**



BIRTHDAYS

BLESSING IN A BACKPACK

Eli Tanasse  
Renee Pier  
Ron Erskine  
Philip Clark  
Herb Klingbiel  
Bill Tanasse  
Joan Perry  
Nicole Mai  
Kim Dible



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

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped pack over 200 bags for the Grand Ledge school children. After packing, you helped us restock for the next week. Without the support of this church and the many volunteers, we could not successfully feed the Grand Ledge school children during the weekends.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

No matter what or when you are asked, you continue to give! You gave an amazing **\$388** for our Neighbors in Need (NIN) special offering in October to help support our national UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds went to support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of NIN offering will be used by the Justice and Witness Ministries through grants awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Thank you hugely!

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, those affected by the fires in CA, as well as, Darrell B., Doris B., Lili B., Kathy H., Cindy G., Carole S., Barbara N., Geri L. Robert E., Larry and Carol S., Ben B., Jim H., and Karen W.

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 October 2019	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 10,975.89	\$109,341.13	\$107,903.33	\$129,484.00
Expenses	<u>9,176.14</u>	<u>86,456.79</u>	<u>106,562.50</u>	<u>127,875.00</u>
Balance	\$ 1,799.75	\$ 22,884.34	\$ 1,340.83	\$ 1,609.00



With the stewardship campaign collecting pledges for next year, we have continued to help our church, community, nation, and world with the generous donations from members, friends, and visitors of our church. December is a month with more expenses because there are insurances and pension payments due along with the higher heat and electric expenses.

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.

BLANKETS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

THANK YOU!! Take a moment to see the warm and cozy lap blankets that were put together after church on November 10th. They are on display on a bench in the Narthex. A few more went home with volunteers to finish and will soon be on display. Many thanks to the nimble fingers that had fun snipping, cutting and tying ...fun to chat with each other as we worked. Imagine the surprise and joy of ten people who receive Meals on Wheels in December, and also receive one of these blankets! Thank you!! Your Christian Outreach Team.



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GUSTAFSON ENDOWMENT		PAPERGATOR	
<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></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> <p><a href="http://papergatorrecycling.com/">http://papergatorrecycling.com/</a></p> <p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot and <b>it's hungry!</b></p>	
ENDOWMENT FUND		KEN'S COAT CLOSET	
<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><b>Ken's Coat Closet, located at 501 S. Clinton Street,</b> is already having kids/teens/families coming in to look for a winter coat and warm accessories. If you have a good used coat, snow pants, hats and mittens/gloves that no one in your family wears, please consider donating to Ken's Coat Closet.</p> 	
ALTAR FLOWERS		CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS	
<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. <b>Altar flowers can be cut flowers from your garden or a houseplant.</b> Please sign-up on the sheet located in the main hallway or contact the church office at 517-627-2336.</p> 		<p>We will receive detailed information on Christmas food wishes for our five families just before Thanksgiving. Look for details in December Thursday Pauses and church bulletin announcements. We are looking for one or two people/families who would be willing to help us shop for food and deliver it <b>around December 15</b>. Please contact one of us if you would like to help. It's a wonderful experience to knock on a family's door and see their faces light up when we wish them a Merry Christmas and they see the abundance of food we are delivering to them.</p> <p>Charlene, Tony, Sarah and Sandy</p>	
SENIOR LUNCH			
<p>Seniors are now having lunch at City Hall on <b>Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 Noon</b>. The program is offered through Eaton County Meals on Wheels. The following persons may eat on a donation basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All persons 60 years of age and older and/ or the spouses of a person 60 years of age or older</li><li>• Individuals under 60 years of age with disabilities who live with a senior over 60</li><li>• Grandchildren under 17 years of age</li><li>• A non-paid caregiver for a program participant</li></ul> <p>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. Those who do not meet the qualifications for a free meal may purchase a meal at the current full price of \$5.75.</p>			

2019 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

The First Congregational United Church of Christ Christmas Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale will be on **Saturday, December 7, 2019**. We have many vendors participating in our craft bazaar. Please reserve a few hours on December 7th 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 4:30 p.m., so... you can still make plans for an exciting evening out or at home. With a little help from a lot of volunteers, this will be another successful bazaar.

This year, we are trying something new. We are going to have door prizes throughout the day. Our hope is that people will stay and shop longer. If you can make or donate a door prize for our bazaar, please let Karen W. or Fay S. know. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS



We are looking for musicians to play or sing (solos, duets, small ensembles) during our Christmas Eve service. If you are interested, please let Jeannette know your name and the piece you'd like to play, **no later than December 15**. Thank you.

SOUPER BOWL

Souper Bowl of Caring is the time for us to tackle hunger in Grand Ledge.

On **February 2, 2020** (which is Super Bowl Sunday) our young people will be collecting for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. In addition to our monthly food collection, they will be holding soup pots to collect money that is used to purchase items that are not donated.

Watch for the soup pots and help us fight hunger right here at home!

CHRISTMAS FUND COLLECTION

For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need. We are grateful for the generosity of churches and individuals who contributed a total of \$2,539,471 to the 2018 Offering, enabling us to provide Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, special grants for emergencies, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks to over 1,000 individuals and families in need. Our **Christmas Fund offering is December 22, 2019**. On behalf of the hundreds of clergy and lay employees and their families whose lives were touched by your support of last year’s Christmas Fund Offering, we offer our sincere thanks for your generosity! The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, Inc. and United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT




Our children will have their Christmas pageant on **Sunday, December 22nd**. It’s a wonderful way to have our children participate in the worship service. Please contact Tamara L. or Marcia K. if you have any questions.



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THE CHURCH WINDOW

ANNUAL MEETING



Mark your calendars for the **Annual Meeting and Soup Sunday, January 26th, 2020**. Soups and beverages will be provided by the Executive Board. The Congregation is invited to bring breads, crackers and desserts. This very important annual event is where we outline what happened last year and look forward to 2019. **It is important for ALL members and friends to attend.** God IS still speaking and God wants to speak through US.

GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK

Dear Friends,

With your help, we can meet the needs of our neighbors during the holiday season. We will be focusing on special meal foods and practical gifts for our families.

**FOOD SUGGESTIONS**

- French Style Canned Green Beans
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Boxed Stuffing
- Boxed Pie Crust (Jiffy makes this)
- Canned Pumpkin
- Evaporated Milk
- Gravy
- Canned Peaches and Canned Pears
- Flour
- Sugar
- Rice Mixes
- Canned Corn
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams

**CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS**

- Gently used and new Christmas Decorations
- New, practical gifts for clients such as:
- Flashlights
- Tools
- Kitchen towels, hot pads and utensils
- Skillets
- Towels
- Body wash for men
- Body wash for women
- Shaving sets
- Toys, games, puzzles

**CLOTHING NEEDS**

- Men's jeans (clean, used)
- Men's and Children's Coats (clean, used)

**MEIJER—SIMPLY GIVE**

There is some important information to share. Grand Ledge Meijer participates in a program called Simply Give. This is a matching program that can be a huge help to the food bank. \$10.00 cards can be purchased as customers pay for their groceries. The cards are located in racks near the check out areas. This program will benefit the GL food bank between November 20th and January 4th. Purchasing a card will result in a match from Meijer. There are two extra-important dates when Meijer will "double match" each card purchased. Those dates are December 3rd and December 13th. Each \$10.00 card purchased will result in a \$30.00 donation to the GL food bank. What a way to make every dollar stretch!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Cheryl Mulder



**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 **November collection** was amazing,  
we collected **382 food items** and  
**64 Non-food items**.

**KIDS CORNER**



**THERE WILL NOT BE A JANUARY NEWSLETTER.  
INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE  
JANUARY ANNUAL REPORT.**



ALLIES FOR CHANGE

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. Now, as always, it is imperative that white people do the deep work required to claim and embody an anti-racist identity, understand the privilege they carry, develop relationships of accountability to people of color, and interrupt racism where they live, work, study, and volunteer.

*Doing Our Own Work* is a six-day anti-racism seminar (held over three months’ time) for white people who seek to deepen their knowledge and capacity to confront racism. *Doing Our Own Work* helps white people move through places where they often get stuck, so that they can step up with humility, courage, and consistency to participate in movements led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action.

*If you are a white person who is ready to dive deep and come up stronger for the work of racial justice, join us!*

In the Fall of 2019, there will be two *Doing Our Own Work* seminars in Michigan:

LANSING – December 13-14 / Facilitated by Emily Joye McGaughy and Liz Miller.

Information about these seminars can be found on the Allies for Change calendar:  
www.alliesforchange.org/calendar

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

October 22, 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, Rich Brown, Anita Calcagno, Kim Dible, Bruce Ramthun, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Julie Wilkinson, and Bil Turner. Pastor Laura and Linda Gooley were also present.

Open Forum

No items were brought forth.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

Action and Discussion Items

Pastor’s Report

Pastor Laura reported that during the last month she has performed two weddings, premarital counseling, attended meetings related to the Pine Ridge Mission trip, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service, and conducted pastoral care meetings. She also spent time familiarizing herself with our wedding policy. There was discussion of changes in her pastoral care hours and locations. She had questions for the Board regarding interactions with the GL Ministerial Association, the Superintendent of Schools and our Michigan House Representative. She informed the Board of a family illness and the possibility of needing to utilize compassionate leave.





Music Item.

Judy has informed the Personnel Committee that she wishes to no longer accompany the choir, but would continue with the other Worship Service music. Her preference would be to affect this change beginning January 1 of 2020. There was general discussion about how to split the job and how to split the salary. Moved by Lynn, seconded by Anita to split the position. Motion passed. Moved by Lynn, seconded by Fay to begin the search for someone to accompany the choir, if Judy agrees to continue with the other Worship Service music. Motion passed. There was general agreement on a method to divide the salary. Rich and Anita will discuss the changes with Judy. The Personnel Committee will stand ready to begin a search.

Direct Deposit Fay has had further discussion with Eaton Federal as well as other banks. It seems that all banks will charge to add the ability to make the type of automated transfers that we need. Fay and Lynn will continue to work on this item. There was also discussion of payments to the Ministers Pension Fund.

Stewardship drive. Bruce explained that one mailing has gone out, speakers are scheduled for three Sundays and that Stewardship Sunday will be November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ceremony Services and Facility Use Policy. No new information on this topic.

2020 Proposed Budget. Some line items in the Proposed Budget were adjusted. This was primarily to align the Ministers Compensation with her Call Agreement.

**New Business**

Vacation Days Accounting Fay presented information to the Board and asked questions regarding accounting for vacation days.

Committee Composition. Lynn explained that she has made available a list of existing Committees and their members.

Sound System. Lynn informed the Board that the broadcasting portion of our sound system was recently found to be in violation of FCC rules on use of frequencies. The situation has been corrected.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 26th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Bil Turner, Church Clerk

# DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 First Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship / Communion & Food Drive / Choir Sings <b>Grand Ledge Christmas Parade</b>	2 7:00 pm Bell Practice	3	4 5-7 p.m. Rest in the Rush 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	5 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Christmas Bazaar Set-up	7 9 am—3 pm Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale
8 Second Sunday of Advent 50th Anniversary Celebration 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship / Bells Play / Choir Sings 1:45—5:15 pm Holiday Wishes	9 7:00 pm Bell Practice 12:15 pm SOR	10 9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 10:15 a.m. Southside Community Kitchen 6 pm Congregational Life	11 5-7 p.m. Rest in the Rush 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	12 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	13 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:00 pm Square Dance Caller Wayne Pelmear	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship / Bells Play/ Choir Sings 5:00 pm Longest Night Service 1:45—5:15 pm Holiday Wishes	16 7:00 pm Bell Practice	17 6:00 pm WGOB 6:30 p.m. Executive Board	18 5-7 p.m. Rest in the Rush 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	19 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	20 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship / Choir Sings Children's Christmas Pageant Christmas Fund Collection 3:00 pm Christmas Caroling start @ FCUCC	23 7:00 pm Bell Practice	24 Christmas Eve <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8:00 pm AA	27 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	28
<b>PASTOR LAURA ON VACATION DECEMBER 26th—JANUARY 6TH</b>						
29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship / message by Ben Banks  No January Newsletter	30	31 New Year's Eve <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	January 1 New Year's Day <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	2 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8:00 pm AA	3 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	4

PASTOR LAURA ON VACATION DECEMBER 26th—JANUARY 6TH

Sunday Schedule for DECEMBER 2019					
Date	December 1 1st Sunday of Advent Violet	December 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent Violet	December 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent Violet	December 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent Violet	December 29th 1st Sunday after Christmas / White
Text	Ps 122 <b>Matt 24:36-44</b>	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19 <b>Matt 3:1-12</b>	Ps 146:5-10 <b>Matt 11:2-11</b>	Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 <b>Matt 1:18-25</b>	Ps 148 <b>Matt 2:13-23</b>
Head Usher	Leah Horn	Lisa Reed	Kim Dible	Chris Cypher	Jane Gilson
Greeters	Bil Turner and Ron Erskine	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Mae Clark and Fay Schroeder	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	Gary and Chris Cypher
Ushers	Joe and Jane Gilson	Kim Dible and Anna Miller	Joy Leonard and Cheryl Mattson	Sue Sackett and Bruce Ramthun	Leah Horn and Anna Miller
Liturgist	Marcia Kent	Lisa Reed	Ben Banks	Karen Ramthun	Leah Horn
Crucifer	Gary Burt				
Soundboard	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Gary and Chris Cypher	Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	Gary and Kathy Burt	Chad Frost and Chuck Byam	Adam and Allie Stevens
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	Marcia Kent	Marcia Kent and Tamara Lipsey	Marcia Kent	Marcia Kent	Marcia Kent
Sunday Schedule for JANUARY 2019					
Date	January 5th 2nd Sunday after Christmas White	January 12th Baptism of Christ White	January 19th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Green	January 26th Sunday after Epiphany Green	
Text	Jer 31:7-14 <b>John 1:(1-9), 10-18</b>	Isa 42:1-9 <b>Matt 3:13-17</b>	Isa 49:1-7 <b>John 1:29-42</b>	Isa 9:1-4 <b>Matt 4:12-23</b>	
Head Usher	Kim Dible	Kathy Burt	Jane Gilson	Lisa Reed	
Greeters	Pat and Lisa Reed	Fay Schroeder and Mae Clark	Sue Sackett and Kim Dible	Gary and Chris Cypher	
Ushers	Joy Leonard and Ron Erskine	Anna Miller and Patty Curtis	Karen and Charlynn Walker	Jane and Joe Gilson	
Crucifer	Bruce Ramthun				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Patty Curtis	Erica Oliver	Anita Calcagno	
Soundboard	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	
Coffee Hour	Julie Wilkinson and Tina Lamer	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Gary and Kathy Burt	Annual Meeting - Soup Sunday	
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		Sarah Robinson	Joy Leonard and Beth Posey	Pastor Laura	





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Emergency Contact 517-374-0145

[grandledgeucc.org](http://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 Finney, 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](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**