

# THE CHURCH WINDOW



**APRIL  
2020**



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

We are in such an odd and unsettling time now. Who would have thought that our Lenten spiritual journey into the unknown would become a literal one! How very good it is, then, that we have each other. As I talk with many of you, read emails and messages on my Facebook feed, I am struck by two things. First, many of us are finding ourselves overwhelmed. Several of my Facebook friends are noticing that they are often on the verge of tears and that just seeing a cute video or hearing a small word of kindness makes them cry. If you find yourself in that position, please know that what you're feeling is very normal. Our situation is changing so rapidly that it's difficult to know what to expect next or to figure out how to be. Feelings of frustration, sadness, loss, anger—all of these are normal reactions to living in such an uncertain time. So give yourself grace, and find ways to safely express what you're feeling. Let yourself cry, if you need to. Go in the yard and scream, if you need to. Hit your pillows, if you need to release some anger. Pray it all out to God, who can definitely hear and take whatever you're feeling.

Second, I am struck by our need for a sacred space. So many of us look forward to coming into our sacred worship space each week. We connect with God and one another there. So being asked to stay home and avoid our sacred space is hard. It can cause us to feel disconnected, spiritually and emotionally. For some, this might be the hardest part of our wilderness journey. So I invite you to try to make yourself a sacred space in your home—a room, a table, a corner, or a part of your yard. My daughter, for example, has made herself a blanket fort in her room and filled it with comfort items. Crawling in there with her, I can feel that it is a sacred space—a place of safety, comfort, and love. You can ask yourself, what do you need to make a space sacred? Do you need symbol of faith—a cross, a picture, another symbol of the Trinity? Do you need a candle, a notepad on which to write prayer requests, a picture of our sanctuary, artwork, flowers? Do you need a way to kneel or sit in this space? I invite you to share the space with everyone in your household, so that everyone's sacred objects can stand side-by-side. You might not need a cross in your sacred space, but maybe your family member does. You can live into a sacred community by sharing your space with one another's sacred objects and talking about why they are sacred to you. I invite you to BE in this space daily, even for a short time. Consider sitting in that space, if possible, when worshipping with us on Sunday. Let the creative part of your soul guide you. And know that you do not need to be in the church to be in God's presence. Wherever there is love, my dear ones, you will be walking on sacred ground.

Blessings, Pastor Laura



## SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

Sisters of Ruth met on March 9, 2020, at Cugino's for lunch.

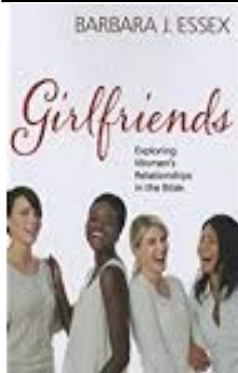
We discussed our spring service project of making personal care kits for the S.I.R.E.N. Shelter. We will have further discussions regarding this project when we are able to meet again after the Governor's Executive Order has been lifted.

## CONGREGATORS

We don't know how long it will be until we see each other again. Yet, in the meantime we will keep in touch with phone calls to care for each other. We won't meet in April but maybe in May...time will tell. Our love to you in the meantime, and prayers for you to stay well. Be sure to let one of us know if you need anything at all! **Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019)**



## WGOD



We did not meet during the month of March because of the Coronavirus. Our next meeting will be on **April 21, 2020** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue learning about women of the Bible reading chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the book, "Girlfriends" by Barbara J. Essex.

## FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

Due to the Coronavirus our *Free Little Library* will be temporarily closed until it is safe to reopen it.

## BIRTHDAYS

Jackson Lipsey  
Ben Sackett  
Sue Lawens  
Bonnie Thompson  
Chuck Thompson  
Rich Brown  
Daniell Gooley  
Brian Curran  
Lynn Hart  
Tina Erskine  
Tony Ramos  
Bil Turner  
Bruce Ramthun



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

## GO NUTS!

Our church outing to the Lansing Lugnuts Game is scheduled for **Saturday, June 27**. Save the date and get ready for some fun!

It's Star Wars Night and LAFCU Fireworks! The Lugnuts play Lake County Captains. **Game time is 7:05 pm and tickets are \$11.**

Look for the sign up sheet soon. Let's GO NUTS TOGETHER!

## GOVERNOR WHITMER

Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order to 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' the church office will be closed until April 14<sup>th</sup>. However, I will be monitoring the church phone on and off during 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If you leave a detailed message including your name and phone number, I will return your call as soon as I am able. If you have a pastoral emergency please reach out to Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage at 517-374-0145.

Thank you, Jeannette

## 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 and especially those who have contracted the Coronavirus.

**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, public servants, our congregational leaders, politicians, and many more.

**Prayer request:** Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, as well as, Georgia B., Beth P., 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., Janet S., Karen W., and Anna C.



**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 February 2020	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date	Actual Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$ 13,717.07	\$ 23,406.06	\$ 21,709.00	\$ 130,254.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>10,158.53</u>	<u>11,241.46</u>	<u>11,270.00</u>	<u>135,244.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 3,558.54	\$ 988.09	\$ (831.67)	\$ (1,609.00)



We covered our expenses in March due to an annual pledge being completed. Please keep up with your pledges and donations by mailing them to the church since so many services are being cancelled. **(210 West Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge, MI 48837)** We have several large payments coming due in April. This congregation has been successful the past two years with keeping our income close to our expenses. This year however, we have a whole new situation, yet our church still has many operating expenses. We can still have a positive balance if our pledges and donations are fulfilled as our promise to God and this church.

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 2020, we will soon be able to reach our goal.

**MAY YOU FIND THE RENEWAL OF HOPE, HEALTH, LOVE,  
AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD. HAPPY EASTER TO YOU  
AND YOUR LOVELY FAMILIES.**

## 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!**

## 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.

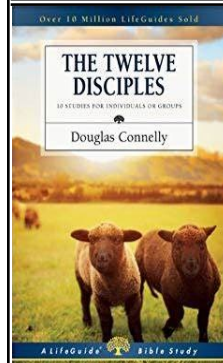
## KEN'S COAT CLOSET

**Ken's Coat Closet, located at 501 S. Clinton Street,** is a nonprofit clothing bank. It provides an opportunity for special education students from Eaton County to work there to gain employment and transition skills. KCC also provides clothing and personal care items to hundreds of students and community members each year.

## 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.

## BIBLE STUDY



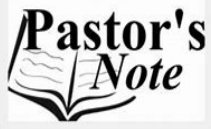
Due to the Coronavirus and Governor Whitmer's Executive Order the Thursday afternoon Bible study has been postponed until further notice. Please contact Judy Nielsen at 882-0608 to reserve a book.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Senior lunch at City Hall on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 Noon** is postponed until further notice.



## PASTOR LAURA'S DROP-IN OFFICE HOURS



Due to the Coronavirus and Governor Whitmer's Executive Order *Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours* will be postponed until further notice.

## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Our church will soon offer New Member Classes! Please contact the church office or let Pastor Laura know if you're interested. We will probably hold these after worship. Please let us know if that time doesn't work for you.

## DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The *Our Bible* app is a new, free to download app that features a variety of daily devotionals, podcasts, and vlogs with a progressive and LGBTQI friendly perspectives. If you are looking to explore spirituality from a new perspective, this is a good place to start. Go to the Apple or Android app store to download.



## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Greetings from the Board of Christian Outreach,

We hope everyone is doing their best to stay safe and keep social distance. It's been a time of adjustment for all of us, these past few weeks we've all had to change our plans and create new plans on the go. We will reschedule our special offering for *One Great Hour of Sharing*. We will have an update soon about how this special offering helps in times like this and when it will take place.

The outreach board is excited about the mission trip to Pine Ridge at the end of the summer and had been looking forward to kicking off some really exciting fundraisers and fellowship events. Unfortunately, due to the current times, we're going to have to put a hold on all of those. We have had to cancel/postpone a fundraiser with Cravings Popcorn in Lansing. Once we are on the other side of social distancing we will try to reschedule this fundraiser.

Now, this isn't meant to be just a sad update. We want to have something to look forward to once we are able to be with each other again in person. We have a question for you, can you sing, dance, tell a story, juggle or do you just want to have an evening of entertainment? The outreach board is going to host a special concert and talent show in the future. Start thinking now about what solo or duet you want to sing, what song you'd like to play, or what hidden talent you would like to share with all of us. All ages welcome, and all levels of talents are encouraged to participate. We'll have more details on a date and time in the future, along with a few other opportunities for fellowship to support those going on the mission trip.

We continue to pray for our church during this time, and will help to support our church and church family in anyway we can.

The Board of Christian Outreach

## GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK

Dear Friends,

So much has changed in such a short time. Prayers that you all are well.

The food bank will remain open to serve the community but only through telephone orders. Please help spread the word that the food bank will continue to serve the Grand Ledge area as long as possible. Some who have supported the food bank in the past may find they need a little extra help at this especially difficult time. Please call 517-627-4348 for food orders or to register as a new client. The hours of operation are **Tuesdays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Thursdays 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

The food bank is located at 4980 Burt St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837. After the phone order is placed, the procedure upon arrival is to ring the doorbell at the front door. The building is only open to volunteers at this time. Please present ID with your current address and your order will be brought to the door. Please return your cart to the porch when you are finished.

Additional information regarding food, personal care and clothing donations. Since shopping is a challenge for everyone right now, **monetary donations** would be greatly appreciated for those who are able. In addition, items can be brought to the back door of the main building and left at the door during regular hours of operation. Tuesdays 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Thursdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The back door can be accessed by parking in the side parking lot between the church and food bank and following the sidewalk path to the back deck. Please knock on the door to alert staff of your donation and leave your items outside the door. The address is 4980 Burt Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

Thanks so much for your continued support. Prayers that you are well at this difficult time.

Peace,

Cheryl Mulder

The **Foodbank needs volunteers**, especially on Thursday afternoons. We're down 6 people at that time. The shift runs from 12 noon to 3:00 pm. Volunteers can contact Ben Banks at 517-627-8712.

**\*\*FCUCC donated 240 food items and 11 non-food items to the Grand Ledge Food Bank in March.**

**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. - 3:00 p.m.

## HOLY WEEK

### CORRECTION TO LAST WEEK'S THURSDAY PAUSE

We will still have our Live Streaming Taizé Maundy Thursday Service on **Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm**

### GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

The Grand Ledge Ministerial Association will also still hold their **Good Friday Ecumenical Service** scheduled for **Friday, April 10th** through a live streaming platform. Pastor Laura will be preaching. More information to follow.

### EASTER SERVICES

Easter Services will be held virtually. More information on the services will be shared soon.

## HEALTH CONCERNS

Please follow these links for accurate and up to date information regarding the Coronavirus.

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

<https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/covid-19-resources-and-update>

[https://www.ucc.org/news\\_ucc\\_churches\\_establish\\_protocols\\_preach\\_awareness\\_not\\_panic\\_as\\_covid\\_19\\_cases\\_grow\\_03102020](https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_churches_establish_protocols_preach_awareness_not_panic_as_covid_19_cases_grow_03102020)

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Ben Gallagher  
SPRING CLEANING

03-20-2002

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

January 28, 2020

**Present:** Rich Brown, Anita Calcagno, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Kim Dible, Chris Clark, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Linda Gooley, Pastor Laura

**Spiritual Reflection:** Pastor Laura opened the meeting with prayer.

**Open Forum:** No one was present for this.

**Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda adopted.

**Items Removed from Consent Agenda:** No items were removed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Laura gave an update of her recent activities. She appreciated her vacation time after Christmas. She will be meeting with state Representative Angela Whitwer (who represents most of Eaton County), along with other Grand Ledge clergy. She has two weddings coming up that she is preparing for. Pastor Laura is very excited that six folks from our church will be participating in a mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in September. Watch for more information on this.

**Equity Line of Credit:** Kim reported back on information she gathered about possibly setting up an equity line of credit, should the boiler need to be replaced or if there were other large expenses related to the church building. Rich and Fay Schroeder will meet with the bank on this.

**Active Shooter Training:** Grand Ledge Police are offering a training on how to respond to an active shooter situation. Several members of the Executive Board plan to attend and will report back.

**Cosecha Michigan Building Usage:** Cosecha has asked if they can use the church building once a month with no charge, for their leadership team meetings. Karen moved and Kim seconded that Cosecha be allowed to use the church at no cost for their monthly leadership meetings. Motion passed. The Outreach Team will coordinate this.

**Personnel:** Linda indicated that the Personnel Committee is ready to work with the Christian Ed Board on hiring a Sunday School teacher. Personnel needs a job description from the Christian Ed Board.

**Organ:** Linda said there are problems with the pedals sticking on the organ. Linda will talk with Judy about getting the repair person to the church.

**Church Building:** Anita is aware of someone who has been repeatedly getting migraines a couple hours after being at church. She will do some research to see what would be involved in having someone check the church for radon and mold. She will report back.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Holcomb-Merrill



**God raised the Lord and will also  
raise us up by his power.**

*1 Corinthians 6:14*



## APRIL 2020

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
March 29	5th Sunday of Lent 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Message by Chad Frost	30	31	1	2	3	4
<b>Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order the church office will be closed until April 14th. Items on this calendar scheduled after April 13 may also change depending on the Coronavirus and our local Government. We will keep you updated.</b>							
5	Palm / Passion Sunday 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	6	7	8	9	10	11
					7:00 p.m. Candlelight Taizé' Service Live Streaming	7:00 pm Ecumenical Service in Grand Ledge Live Streaming (Pastor Laura will be speaking)	
<b>12</b>							
12	<b>EASTER</b> 10:30 am Worship Service will be virtual (details will be announced)	13	14	15	16	17	18
			9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 6 pm Congregational Life	6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Newsletter Items Due	
<b>19</b>							
19	10:30 am Worship / Choir Sings	20	21	22	23	24	25
		7:00 pm Bell Practice	6:00 pm WGOD	6:00 pm AA 6:30 pm Pastoral Relations 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>26</b>							
26	10:30 am Worship / message by Karen Holcomb- Merrill / Choir Sings  Newsletter Available	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
		7:00 pm Bell Practice	9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 10:15 am Southside Comm. Kitchen 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg.	6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	

## Sunday Schedule for APRIL 2020

Date	April 5th 6th Sunday of Lent Violet or Red	April 12th Easter White	April 19th 2nd Sunday of Easter White	April 26th 3rd Sunday of Easter White
Text	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 <b>Matt 26:14-27:66</b>	Acts 10:34-43 <b>John 20:1-18</b>	Acts 2:14, 22-32 <b>John 20:19-31</b>	Acts 2:14, 36-41 <b>Luke 24:13-35</b>
Head Usher	<b>Due to the Coronavirus and Governor Whitmer's Executive Order Worship Service is on Facebook</b>		Chris Cypher	Kathy Burt
Greeters			Cheryl Mattson and Charlene Avery	Bruce and Karen Ramthun
Ushers			Ben Banks and Leah Horn	Gary and Chris Cypher
Liturgist			Jim Hart	Mary Lou Prevost
Crucifer				
Soundboard			Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker
Coffee Hour			Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson	Chris and Kelly Clark
Acolytes				
Nursery Care			Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney

## Sunday Schedule for MAY 2020

Date	May 3rd 4th Sunday of Easter White	May 10th 5th Sunday of Easter White	May 17th 6th Sunday of Easter White	May 24th 7th Sunday of Easter White	May 31st Pentecost Sunday Red
Text	Acts 2:42-47 <b>John 10:1-10</b>	Acts 7:55-60 <b>John 14:1-14</b>	Acts 17:22-31 <b>John 14:15-21</b>	Acts 1:6-14 <b>John 17:1-11</b>	Acts 2:1-21 <b>John 20:19-23</b>
Head Usher	Leah Horn	Gary Burt	Nate Oliver	Lisa Reed	Jane Gilson
Greeters	Joy Leonard and Bil Turner	John and Freida Schneeberger	Ben Banks and Kim Dible	TBD	Bil Turner and Ron Erskine
Ushers	Sue Sackett and Anna Miller	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Bruce Ramthun and Charlene Avery	TBD	Kim Dible and Sarah Robinson
Crucifer	Karen Walker				
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Marcia Kent	TBD	Anita Calcagno
Soundboard	Charlynn Walker	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	TBD
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	Gla' Spayde and Fay Schroeder	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Pat and Lisa Reed	Bruce and Karen Ramthun
Acolytes	Matilda and Hildegard Oatman				
Nursery Care	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney



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Pastor's E-mail: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)

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**

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage  
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator  
Brandon Frost, Choir Director  
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist  
Judy Nielsen, Organist  
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director  
Sue Sackett, Custodian  
Nicole Finney, 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  
Kathy Burt, Congregational Life  
Chris Clark, Christian Outreach  
Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large  
Kim Dible, 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)**