

THE CHURCH WINDOW



**MAY
2020**



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Pastor's E-mail pastor@grandledgeucc.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Greetings, Dear Ones!

A friend shared this poem by Wendell Berry with me and I want to share it with you:

Wild Geese

Geese appear high above us,
pass, the sky closes.
Abandon as in love or sleep
keeps them to their way
clear in the ancient faith:
What we need is here.
And we pray, not for new
earth or heaven
but to be quiet of mind; of eye clear
What we need is here.



In this time of worry, sadness, disease and disquiet, it's important that we remember the words of this poet: What we need is here. You have been here for one another, even though your pastor has been ill. You have kept the church running, you have donated to the foodbank to support others, you have made and distributed masks, you have called, written notes, sent texts and emails. You have prayed. You have done things for one another quietly, just doing them because they needed to be done. The love of God has been, and will continue to be, alive and shining forth in all of you. The Risen Christ walks with you in your yards and homes. He sits beside you as you make those calls, write those emails and texts, and send in your donations. He holds your hands as you pray. So, let your minds and hearts be quiet. Let your eyes see clearly.

What we need is here, indeed.

Blessings,
Pastor Laura



UPDATE: Pastor Laura has had a bit of a health setback this week with a relapse related to the coronavirus. She will be fine, but needs to rest through this week. She appreciates all of your prayers and good wishes. She is very appreciative of all of those who are making Sunday worship happen. Our Sunday worship will be on Facebook live again.

We will not be using Zoom on Sunday, as planned. Please go to Facebook.

SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

Sisters of Ruth did not meet in April. We may not meet in May so please check the Thursday Pause.

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

W GOD

We did not meet during the month of April. We are not sure if we will be able to meet in May, please watch the Thursday Pause for more information.

CONGREGATORS

April showers bring May flowers! As we move into the beautiful month of May, we want so much to be together for our second Friday of the month get together at the Log Jam. But we remain on hold during this time of Stay Home, Stay Safe until we get the all clear. In the meantime, we stay connected with loving and caring phone calls back and forth. 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! So as Chuck Byam has been playing at the end of our Facebook live worship services, happy trails to you until we meet again! **Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019)**

BIRTHDAYS

- Josh Gooley
- Sandy Sipes
- Bobbie Tanasse
- Olivia Westfall
- Ted Westfall
- Kyler Posey
- Paul Oatman
- Mike Pier
- Lisa Reed
- Pam Westfall
- Alexandera Stevens

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



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Thanks to Chris Sumner

04-09-2003

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE STILL RUNNING MICASOFT 2000BC

GO NUTS!

PLEASE NOTE!

Because of current conditions, our all-church Lugnuts outing has been rescheduled. Our new group outing will be **Saturday, August 22**. It's Wizarding Weekend: Wizards and Muggles Night with LAFCU Fireworks!

Game time is still 7:05 pm and tickets are \$11. Stay tuned for more information on getting signed up.

LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER AND GO NUTS!

GOVERNOR WHITMER

Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order to 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' the church office will be closed until further notice. 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 you call as soon as I am able. If you have a pastoral emergency please reach out to Rev. **If you have a pastoral emergency please reach out to Rev. Ellen Robinson at 517-775-9426, if you are unable to reach Rev. Ellen, please hang up and call Rev. Jim Robinson at 517-775-8440.**

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, and all who have been directly affected by the Coronavirus, as well as; Pastor Laura, Ben and Darlene B., Demphna K., Brenda F., Menetta K., 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 March 2020	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date	Actual Budget
Income	\$ 11,542.07	\$ 32,563.50	\$ 34,849.13	\$ 130,254.00
Expenses	<u>13,382.72</u>	<u>33,811.00</u>	<u>36,079.19</u>	<u>135,244.00</u>
Balance	\$ (1,840.65)	\$ (1,247.50)	\$ (1,232.06)	\$ (4,990.00)



There were large expenses due this month, such as insurances and pension payment. Even though the pledges and donations are currently higher than the budget predicted, we are far behind on other income because of not being able to have our services at the church. Your pledge giving and donations are very much appreciated. If at any time during this crisis that it becomes difficult for you to continue giving, please contact the financial secretary, Lynn Hart.

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.

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

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

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



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.

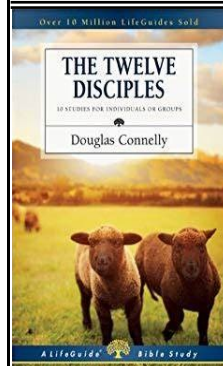
KEN'S COAT CLOSET

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.



STILL SPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Sign-up for UCC daily devotionals at

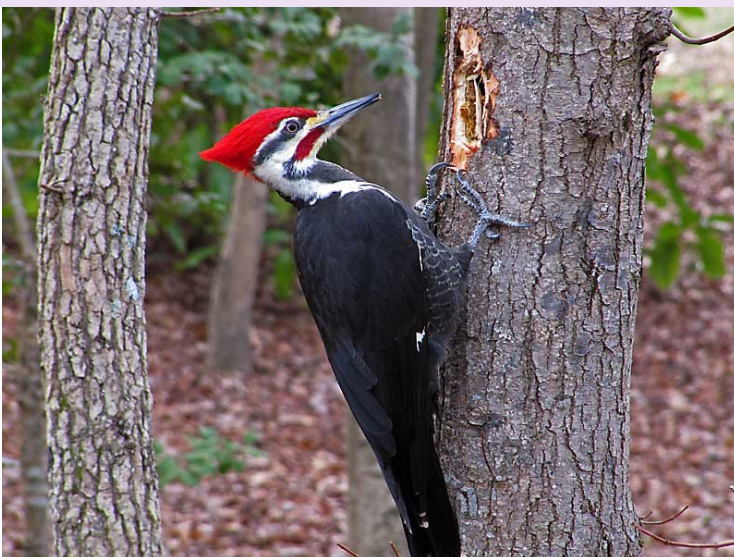
https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

CALLING CIRCLE

Karen Ramthun and I set up Calling Circles at the suggestion of the pastor. Fifteen callers volunteered to call between 5 and 8 people from our church directory. The callers are touching base with members and friends of FCUCC to make sure everyone is okay during the 'Stay Home Stay Safe' period, in which we find ourselves. People were offered a weekly call, as well as assistance with groceries, prescriptions, etc. We have enjoyed these phone contacts. If you haven't received a call and would like to be a part of a circle, please call me.

Kathy Burt
627-9855



During our time at home, if you have a nice picture you would like to share please send it to office@grandledgeucc.org with a brief description. If I can I will share it with our friends and members.

Pileated Woodpecker

The pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is a woodpecker native to North America. This insectivorous (feeding on insects, worms, and other invertebrates) bird is an inhabitant of deciduous forests in eastern North America, the **Great Lakes**, the boreal forests of Canada, and parts of the Pacific Coast. It is the second-largest woodpecker on the continent, after the critically endangered ivory-billed woodpecker. The term "pileated" refers to the bird's prominent red crest, with the term from the Latin *pileatus* meaning "capped".

This big guy has been hanging out in our backyard. It is amazing to see the woodchips fly when he goes to work. It makes my head hurt just watching him :)

Jeannette

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.

The food bank is accepting warm weather clothing donations. If anyone is cleaning out closets during the stay home time, warm weather clothing is welcome Tuesdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Drop them off at the donation door (the building behind the food bank that shares the parking lot).

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

Peace, 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. - 3:00 p.m.

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_case

STATEMENT ON FOOD INITIATIVES

Statement on Food Initiatives by the Public **Greater Lansing Food Bank** and our food partners; they understand that many groups, organizations, churches, and even families want to help their neighbors by distributing food. We have no doubt their intentions are good, however, we ask that food initiatives or food drives are not attempted at this time for the reasons below. Instead please work with the existing food pantries and agencies so your efforts don't do more harm than good. **1.** Under Gov. Whitmer's current "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order, unless the organization you're working with is already designated as an "essential food service provider," they are not allowed to do this type of work. **2.** More than ever, product safety and keeping recipients safe is our #1 priority, especially those in vulnerable populations. Most people do not have food safety knowledge and have not completed food safety training for proper sorting or packing of food. (For example, at no time should food products be placed on the floor or re-packed into individual servings outside a licensed "clean room.") Food banks and our agencies go through strict safety compliance audits and are licensed and/or properly certified to do this type of work. **3.** During this pandemic, the distribution of food by our registered food bank partners is very complex and coordinated; professionals are working together in coalitions to distribute as much food as possible to all populations without overlap to ensure food gets to as many people as possible. **4.** Food drives are not recommended at this time since all donated food from the public must be sanitized before being distributed. Currently there is not enough time for that type of work and there is no food-safe sanitization product that kills the COVID virus anyway. Additionally, the governor issued a stay-at-home order, so people shouldn't be leaving their homes to donate food. We are thankful for the caring organizations, religious groups and individuals in our community at this time. However, food safety, volunteer safety and the safety of our community is of the utmost importance so please let the professionals handle this work. If your group would like to help in some way, please consider donating funds by visiting our website at www.glfoodbank.org or by calling us at (517) 908-3680.

MUDGE'S FOLLIES

MUDGE'S FOLLIES

Due to Covid-19 and the current state of Michigan & beyond, the 2020 Follies season as we know and love it, has come to an end before it officially started.

Our aid to GLEAP is far too important to simply quit.

GLEAP

relies on grants, donations & individual gifts to run this amazing operation.

* GLEAP provides emergency assistance to those in need in the GL School District.

* GLEAP gives money to the GL Food Bank each month.

* GLEAP & Follies have partnered over 10 years. The Follies has been able to provide up to \$5,000 in past years.

Our donation to GLEAP is not only appreciated, but essential.

Join The Follies team in making a difference. The Follies is raising money to benefit the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP), and any donation will help make an impact.

Follow the link, gf.me/u/xwu7u6 to give money directly to GLEAP this year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

February 25, 2020

Present: Rich Brown, Anita Calcagno, Lynn Hart, Kim Dible Glasser, Chris Clark, Chris Cypher, Fay Schroeder, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Linda Gooley

Spiritual Reflection: Karen opened the meeting with a reflection.

Open Forum: Bruce Ramthun was present to ask the board to support the church's participation in the Grand Ledge St. Patrick's Day parade on March 14. Fay moved and Chris Clark seconded that Bruce has permission to organize the church's participation in this parade. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda adopted.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda: No items were removed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Laura was not present because she was ill, but she emailed her report to the board.

Organist Fees: A couple that is going to be married in the church received incorrect information about the organist fee. They were told the fee would be \$135, but it is actually \$250. Lynn moved and Anita seconded that the church would make up the difference. Motion passed. As work continues on updating the wedding policies, this information about the organist fee is being corrected.

Custodian Job Description: The Personnel Committee is working on updating this. The board was provided with a draft and was asked to provide feedback.

New Member Classes: Karen indicated that Pastor Laura would like to do a New Member Class, but needs help. Karen has reviewed previous classes and presented a suggested agenda. She asked for feedback from the board, particularly about whether anything is missing.

Boiler: The boiler failed its inspection and needs some work. It was also mentioned that things (including paint) are being stored in the boiler room and need to be removed. Rich is going to talk with the building maintenance team.

Personnel Committee: Chuck Byam will be playing the organ on occasional Sundays to help improve his skills.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Holcomb-Merrill



MAY 2020

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
April 26	10:30 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	1	2
Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order the church office will be closed until further notice. Items on this calendar scheduled from May 1st on may change depending on the Coronavirus and our local Government. We will keep you updated.							
3	10:30 am Worship Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 10:30 am Worship Service	11	12 9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 6 pm Congregational Life	13 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	14 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	15 OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Items Due	16
17	10:30 am Worship Service	18 7:00 pm Bell Practice	19 6:00 pm WGOD	20 6:00 pm AA 6:30 pm Pastoral Relations 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	21 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24	10:30 am Worship Service Newsletter Available	25 7:00 pm Bell Practice	26 9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 10:15 am Southside Comm. Kitchen 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg.	27 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	28 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm AA	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30

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 John 10:1-10	Acts 7:55-60 John 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21	Acts 1:6-14 John 17:1-11	Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23
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

Sunday Schedule for JUNE 2020

Date	June 7th 1st Sunday after Pentecost Green	June 14th 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Green	June 21st 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Green	June 28th 4th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Matthew 28:16-20	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)	Genesis 21:8-21 Matthew 10:24-39	Genesis 22:1-14 Matthew 10:40-42
Head Usher	Leah Horn	Joy Leonard	Karen Ramthun	Chris Cypher
Greeters	Gla' Spayde and Charlene Avery	Terry Bouck and Elva Maguire	Chris and Kelly Clark	Rich Brown and Tony Bray
Ushers	Ben Banks and Bil Turner	Pat and Lisa Reed	Kim Dible and Leah Horn	John and Freida Schneeberger
Liturgist	Jim Hart	Mary Lou Prevost	Kelly Stuble-Clark	Marcia Kent
Crucifer	Bruce Ramthun			
Soundboard	Charlynn Walker	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker
Coffee Hour	Chris and Kelly Clark	Sarah Robinson and Ellen Robinson	Anita Calcagno and Karen Ramthun	Pat and Lisa Reed
Nursery Care	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney

DUE TO OUR CURRENT TIMES THESE SCHEDULES MAY CHANGE.



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

Emergency Contact 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

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**