# THE CHURCH WINDOW



# JUNE 2020



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BIRTHDAYS

GO NUTS!

GOVERNOR WHITMER

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

CALENDAR

SCHEDULE

MENTAL HEALTH	1	210 W. Saginaw Hwy. Grand Ledge, MI 48837
SISTERS OF RUTH	2	grandledgeucc.org
WGOD	2	
CONGREGATORS	2	EDOM THE

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Phone 517-627-2336 Fax 517-627-4539 Church E-mail office@grandledgeucc.org Pastor's E-mail pastor@grandledgeucc.org emergency contact 517-374-0145

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Greetings Dear Ones,

This coming Sunday is Pentecost, which is generally regarded as the beginning of the Christian church. At that time, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, and so many people saw this that they converted to Christianity on the spot. After this, many of them went out to others, preaching, teaching, and caring for others. They would break bread together in their homes, study scripture, and pray. They shared what they had with each other and with those in need.

The point of revisiting this story is this: In the beginning, the faithful were a Church without a building. In fact, the love and good works of the Christians spread so fast and to such a large part of the world known to them precisely because Christians practiced most of their faith out in the world. In this way, we are like the original Church. Although it pains us and we miss each other terribly, we cannot meet in our beloved church. We know that we will be together again eventually, but we can't yet know when that will be. And so, we are Being our faith wherever we are. We are practicing loving kindness at home, in the grocery stores, at Horrocks, in parks, at the gas stations. We are ordering meals for those in need or for essential workers. We are donating money to social justice organizations, to food pantries, to shelters. We are making and donating masks, and having small social distance gatherings with people who need us. And we are making calls, writing letters, and Facetiming and Zooming so that we can continue to worship God and share our love with one another. What the original church found is exactly what we are finding now: The Church IS essential, but meeting together in our building is not. God is with us all of the time, in all places, wherever we are. Thanks be to God.

Blessings, Pastor Laura



#### MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\_99557---,00.html

\*Resources found on this website are for individuals experiencing mental and emotional health challenges during this time. Many of these resources are free.

More resources can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

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#### SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

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.

#### WGOD

Please watch the Thursday Pause for more information regarding when we will be able to meet again.

#### GO NUTS!

Our church outing to the Lansing Lugnuts game is **Saturday**, **August 22**.

It's Wizarding Weekend:

Wizards & Muggles Night and LAFCU Fireworks!
Game time is 7:05 pm and tickets are \$11.

We are keeping in touch with our representative from the Lugnuts regarding opening night, and when attendance at the games can begin.

Keep watching for more information about sign up.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Verna Barclay

Emily Miller-Purrenhage

June Robertson
Karen Walker
Riley Spayde
Erica Oliver
Tamara Lipsey
Eleanor Clark
Gla' Spayde



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

#### CONGREGATORS

As we move into the beautiful month of June, 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 know it's safe to gather as a group of beloved Congregators at a restaurant. overioved to have Pastor Laura and her daughter Emily healing from their intense case of Covid 19. It's the best news to have Pastor Laura back at work several hours a week and adding hours as she grows stronger. We look forward to her sermons! In the meantime, we are enjoying the beauty of spring and are staying 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! We don't mean to be repetitious, but as Chuck Byam continues playing at the end of our Facebook or ZOOM live worship services, happy trails to you until we meet again! Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019)

#### 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 contact Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage at 517-374-0145.

Thank you, Jeannette



WATCH OUT ... IT'S SURPRISE BAPTISM DAY

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#### THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Just as individual prayer time is very important to each of us, so is <u>prayer as a faith community</u>. 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, Emily, 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., Jim H., 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 April 2020	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date	Actual Budget		
Income	10.001.49	\$ 43,418.00 45,081.33	\$ 48,821.01 44,493.41	\$ 130,254.00 135,244.00		
Expenses Balance		\$ (1,663.33)	\$ 3,837.60	\$ (4,990.00)		

The members and friends of this church are amazing. Even though we are unable to meet at our church for our Sunday service and other gatherings, you continue to support the church by your generous donations of pledges and gifts. Your pledge giving and donations are very much appreciated. If at any time during this crisis 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.

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#### **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.

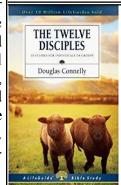
#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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 hall-way or contact the church office at 517-627-2336.

#### 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.

#### 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.

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#### 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

#### **OUR HUGE THANK YOU!**

With all the rainy weather, we were lucky to have two beautiful sunny, blue sky days on May 13 and 20 to do an enormous amount of weed pulling, shrub pruning, perennial trimming, cleaning up crab apple debris, and spraying Round-up. Thanks so much to Gary and Kathy Burt, Bruce and Karen Ramthun, Bil Turner, Jim and Ellen Robinson, Anita Calcagno, Cheryl Mattson and Lon Wilkinson!! Thanks, too, to Sheila Deming, a friend of the church, who heard about the project and simply showed up! It was wonderful to see each other, socially distanced of course, just a good chance to catch up with church friends to see how they are doing. On the second work day, May 20, the white crab trees lining the drive as you arrive were fully in bloom and gorgeous! Thanks again to all who worked so hard! ...Charlene and Fay



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#### GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK

Dear Friends,

So much has changed is 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

 $\underline{https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/covid-19\text{-}resources-and-update}$ 

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 upmost 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, <u>gf.me/u/xwu7u6</u> to give money directly to GLEAP this year.

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#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

#### **MARCH 24, 2020**

#### Call to Order

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

This was a special Executive Board Meeting called by Moderator Brown. The meeting was conducted over a telephone conference call.

Board Members present: Rich Brown, Charlene Avery, Lynn Hart, Fay Schroeder, Anita Calcagno, Kim Dible, Chris Clark, Chris Cypher, Marsha Kent, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, and Bil Turner. Also present: Brandon Frost, Linda Gooley and Jeannette Len.

#### **Spiritual Reflection**

Karen opened the meeting with a reading from the UCC Daily Devotional regarding concern for the future, followed by a prayer.

#### **Action and Discussion Items**

#### Report on Pastor Laura's condition

Karen reported that Pastor Laura does not have test results back, is feeling "somewhat ill" and is at peace with her situation. Pastor Laura has written a letter to the congregation explaining her present situation. Jeannette will distribute the letter.

#### Emergency Pastoral Care.

In the absence of Pastor Laura there is a continuing need for pastoral care. It would be almost exclusively phone calls and email contacts, with no hospital visits anticipated. Several names were discussed as possible candidates. Possible compensation was discussed. Rich will make the initial contacts.

#### Worship Coverage

Linda explained that she, Brandon and Chad Frost have been working on the upcoming worship services. There was a general discussion about those services, which will be available on the internet. Many details are complete and some still need to be worked out. There was discussion of a possible non-traditional Communion Service. Linda, Jeannette and the Frosts will continue to work on the services, the bulletins and notification to the congregation. Rich expressed thanks to all of those who have been so generous with their time in this regard.

#### Access to the Church

A few individuals have been in the church recently and this will continue on an as needed basis. There was discussion about checking the mailbox and wiping down door handles when you leave.

#### Calling Circles

Charlene explained that Pastor Laura had spoken about establishing a system of calling to check on church members and friends. The organizing of this effort has begun.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

**JUNE 2020** 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
May 31 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Message by Judy Nielsen	1	<i>α</i>	က	4	ıo	9
Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order the church office will be closed until June 14th. Items on this calendar scheduled from June 14th on may change depending on the Coronavirus and our local Government. We will keep you updated.	ecutive Order depending on	the church office will the Coronavirus and	be closed until Juon	ne 14th. Items o nent. We will kee	n this calendar sc p you updated.	heduled
7 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	œ	6	10	11	12	13
14 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	15	16	17 6:00 pm AA 7.30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	18 8:00 pm AA	19 OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Items Due	20
21 10:30 am Worship	22	9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 10:15 am Southside Comm. Kitchen 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg.	24 6:00 pm AA 7.30 pm AL ANON 800 pm AA	25 8:00 pm AA	OFFICE CLOSED	27
10:30 am Worship Message by Ellen Robinson Newsletter Available	29	30 9-11 am Pastor Laura's Drop-In Hours at FCUCC	July 1 6:00 pm AA 7.30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	2 8:00 pm AA	OFFICE CLOSED	4

## **Sunday Schedule for JUNE 2020**

Date	<b>June 7th</b> 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 <b>Matthew 28:16-20</b>	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) <b>Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)</b>	Genesis 21:8-21 <b>Matthew 10:24-39</b>	Genesis 22:1-14 Matthew 10:40-42
Head Usher			Karen Ramthun	Chris Cypher
Greeters			Chris and Kelly Clark	Rich Brown and Tony Bray
Ushers			Kim Dible and Leah Horn	John and Freida Schneeberger
Liturgist			Kelly Stuible-Clark	Marcia Kent
Crucifer				
Soundboard			Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker
Coffee Hour			Anita Calcagno and Karen Ramthun	Pat and Lisa Reed
Nursery Care			Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney

# **Sunday Schedule for JULY 2020**

Date	July 5th 5th Sunday after Pentecost Green	July 12th 6th Sunday after Pentecost Green	July 19th 7th Sunday after Pentecost Green	July 26th 8th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Genesis 24:34-38,42-49 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Genesis 25:19-34 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23	Genesis 28:10-19 Matthew 13:24-30,26-43	Genesis 29:15-28 <b>Matthew 13:31-33,44-52</b>
Head Usher	Leah Horn	Jane Gilson	Chris Cypher	Joy Leonard
Greeters	TBD	Joy Leonard and Bil Turner	Ben Banks and Kim Dible	Sarah Robinson and Jim Robinson
Ushers	TBD	Sue Sackett and Anna Miller	Bruce Ramthun and Ron Erskine	Gary and Chris Cypher
Crucifer	TBD			
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Bil Turner	Ron Erskine	Anita Calcagno
Soundboard	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	Gla' Spayde and Fay Schroder	Kim Dible and Leah Horn	Bruce and Karen Ramthun
Nursery Care	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney

**DUE TO OUR CURRENT TIMES THESE SCHEDULES MAY CHANGE.** 



210 W. Saginaw Hwy. Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517-627-2336

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Pastor's E-mail: <a href="mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org">pastor@grandledgeucc.org</a>

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 <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a>