

THE CHURCH WINDOW



JULY
2020



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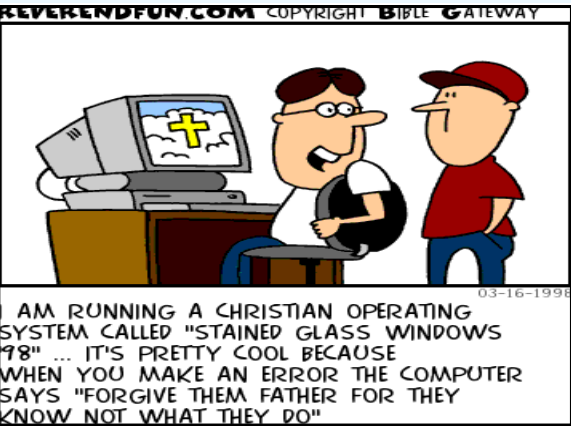
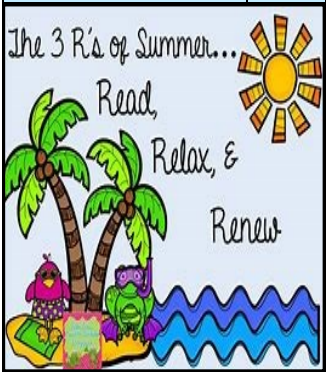
FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Greetings Dear Ones,

This past month, I have been taking another anti-racism workshop (this one through Zoom). At the end of a particularly challenging session, our leader told us to go and take care of our bodies. I thought that this was a particularly insightful piece of advice. Mental and emotional challenges take a toll on our bodies, whether we are aware of it or not. And we are living in times that are definitely taking that toll! Both Covid and the turmoil that has wracked our time have reached our town, our schools and our personal lives. Our bodies are definitely reacting to this. Moreover, many people need physical contact, but a lot of us are isolated right now. So I urge you to take care of your bodies every day. Do some gentle stretches, exercise a little, find ways to relax, get out into the sunlight. Put on skin cream and give yourselves foot massages—seriously. It may seem strange or self-indulgent, but remember that you are embodied souls, and the vessel for that soul needs care.

I know that, for some of us, our bodies are not our friends. They may have changed so that we don't recognize them, betrayed us, or never been true to who we are. So focusing on our bodies might be very difficult. If that's true for you, be gentle with yourselves and remember that you know yourself and how to care for yourself best. But if it's helpful, perhaps focus on any body parts that are hurting and need care (tight shoulders or sore feet) or just on movement in general. Or maybe find a practice that supports your identity (for example, there are yoga groups specifically for our trans siblings). Or engage in exercises that support your abilities (like classes for those in wheelchairs and beds). Most importantly, know that your church family sees and loves you for who you are.

Take care, my dear ones! Until we meet again!



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SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)		CONGREGATORS	
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.		Summer is officially here with abundant sunshine, flowers and the first vegetables in gardens. We continue to count God's many blessings as we move into another month of social distancing and Facebook worship services. As much as we long to be together over lunch, we are still on hold to do that. We are overjoyed to have Pastor Laura back from her Covid 19 ordeal and continuing her ministry with us with pastoral calls and beautiful Sunday messages. Our love to you in the meantime, with continued phone calls and prayers for you to stay safe and well. Be sure to let one of us know if you need anything at all! Yes, know the words well...happy trails to you, until we meet again! Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019)	
WGOD			
Please watch the Thursday Pause for more information regarding when we will be able to meet again.			
GO NUTS!			
The Lugnuts outing scheduled for August 22 has been canceled. The team has not started their 2020 season yet due to the Covid-19 virus. There is no word yet about when or if the season will begin. Let's hope we can get back together soon and GO NUTS next summer!		GOVERNOR WHITMER	
BIRTHDAYS		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 your 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	
<div>Chris Cypher Tom Bernardi Tina Lamer Karen Ramthun Anita Calcagno Elva Maguire Katie Miller-Purrenhage Patty Curtis Janet Harmon Becky Ramos Reshay Tanasse Molly Coombes Joe Gilson Bob Sackett Jane Cospers</div> <div></div> <div><p>If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or office@grandledgeucc.org</p></div>		<div>REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY</div> <div></div> <div>Thanks to Martha K 11-25-2011 HELP! I'VE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET DOWN</div>	

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.

Those who mourn: Please pray for the family and friends on Jean Mae Brown. Jean passed away on Sunday, June 21st surrounded by her loved ones.

Prayer request: Please pray for those rallying for peace and justice, and all who have been directly affected by the Coronavirus, as well as; Linda O., 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 May 2020	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 11,460.00	\$ 60,281.01	\$ 54,272.50	\$ 130,254.00
Expenses	<u>9,470.33</u>	<u>54,453.74</u>	<u>56,351.67</u>	<u>135,244.00</u>
Balance	\$ 1,989.67	\$ 5,827.27	\$ (2,079.17)	\$ (4,990.00)

As we are in our fourth month of the “stay home” order and the closure of our church, your continued support is the greatest gift our church has. Hopefully, we will be able to open soon and, again, your support and love of our church will make it possible. We will have additional bills this month such as insurance and pension



payments. Therefore, every donation is important to sustaining our church. 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.

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		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><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>http://papergatorrecycling.com/</p><p>Our bin is located in our back parking lot and it's hungry!</p></div>	
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>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.</p>	
ALTAR FLOWERS		BIBLE STUDY	
<p>Altar flowers are used throughout the year to enhance the worship experience in the church Sanctuary. Individuals or families may sign up for any given week to provide altar flowers. These flowers are provided by congregation members and friends. They are a wonderful way to honor a special occasion (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, holidays, etc.) or remember loved ones and friends who have passed away. Altar flowers can be cut flowers from your garden or a houseplant. Please sign-up on the sheet located in the main hallway or contact the church office at 517-627-2336.</p>		<div><p>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.</p></div>	
MEALS ON WHEELS			
<p>Senior lunch at City Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 Noon is postponed until further notice.</p>			
			

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.

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

AFTER THE 21 DAY CHALLENGE

I hope you are all doing well, and that you are participating in the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. This challenge is only the beginning of the path we are looking to walk, and the work we are looking to do. On **Sunday, July 12**, in the evening, we will be meeting in the church parking lot and back yard to discuss the 21-Day Challenge: how it impacted each of us, what we have learned from completing it, and where we go from here. We will observe all social distancing recommendations and ask everyone to bring their own beverages and snacks, Please reach out to Chris Clark at christen.g.clark@gmail.com if you are planning to attend so we can make sure to have enough space available. If you would like to attend the meeting via the internet please let Chris know and we will make arrangements or hold a second meeting over Zoom.



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/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.

<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

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.

April 28, 2020

Call to Order

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

This was the second monthly Executive Board Meeting conducted electronically due to the Covid-19 Virus quarantine recommendations. Most members logged on to the website Zoom and some were connected by telephone.

Board Members present: Rich Brown, Charlene Avery, Lynn Hart, Fay Schroeder, Anita Calcagno, Kim Dible-Glasser, Chris Clark, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, and Bil Turner. Also present were Chad Frost, Brandon Frost, Chuck Byam and Linda Gooley.

Spiritual Reflection

Karen opened the meeting by with a prayer of thanks for the helpers and support for those who suffer.

Open Forum

No one was present for this item.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda accepted.

Action and Discussion Items

Pastor’s Report

Karen reported that Pastor Laura has experienced a setback in her struggle with the Covid-19 virus, and will need two weeks more to recover. She expects to return to work on May 11th. Rich will have Jeannette inform the congregation.

Worship Service Update.

Linda reported that she and the “the guys’ are continuing to improve the services. Planning is underway for the next two Sundays. The reflections may be shorter than usual, but great. The Facebook Live platform seems to work fine and may be the easiest of all choices to navigate. She said that there have been more than 600 views of our services. The consensus was to stay with Facebook Live.

Financial Update.

Lynn reported that the April pledge income was \$12,900 and the total income was \$13,970, both of which are quite good. Bil mentioned that there will be a transfer from the Endowment Fund income of more than \$900 to cover the cost of switching the water meter. That will improve the income vs. expense picture.

Custodian Salary.

The discussion centered on paying the custodians’ salary during this enforced time off. Moved by Lynn, seconded by Anita to pay 90% of the salaries, based on the 2019 average hours worked. Motion passed.

New Business

LGBTQ ballot petition and church email list.

Anita had previously sent an email to the Executive Board regarding this item. The question is: is it appropriate to use the church email list for informing members and friends about this ongoing petition activity? The consensus was that it is fine to use our email list for this purpose.

Information Item.

Rich informed the Board that he has been stopping in to look the church over and has been watering the plants.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30 PM. (Location unknown at this time)

Respectfully submitted,
Bil Turner, Church Clerk



JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
June 28 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Message by Ellen Robinson	29	30	1 8:00 pm AA	2	3	4
Due to Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order the church office will be closed until further notice. Items on this calendar may change depending on the Coronavirus and our local Government. We will keep you updated.						
5 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	6	7	8 8:00 p.m. AA	9	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	13	14	15 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	16 8:00 pm AA	17 OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Items Due	18
19 10:30 am Worship (TBD)	20	21 9-11 am Pastor Laura’s Drop-In Hours at FCUCC 10:15 am Southside Comm. Kitchen 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg.	22 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 800 pm AA	23 8:00 pm AA	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 10:30 am Worship (TBD) Message by Anita Calcagno Newsletter Available	27	28 9-11 am Pastor Laura’s Drop-In Hours at FCUCC	29 6:00 pm AA 7:30 pm AL ANON 8:00 pm AA	30 8:00 pm AA	31 OFFICE CLOSED	August 1

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 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52
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

Sunday Schedule for AUGUST 2020

Date	August 2nd 9th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 9th 10th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 16th 11th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 23rd 12th Sunday after Pentecost Green	August 30th 13th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Genesis 32:22-31 Matthew 14:13-21	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Matthew 14:22-33	Genesis 45:1-15 Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Matthew 16:13-20	Exodus 3:1-15 Matthew 16:21-28
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Jane Gilson	Karen Ramthun	Chris Cypher	Nate Oliver
Greeters	John and Freida Schneeberger	Bil Turner and Ben Banks	Anna Miller and Patty Curtis	Gla’ Spayde and Charlene Avery	Gary and Chris Cypher
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Chris and Kelly Clark	Kim Dible and Leah Horn	Terry Bouck and Elva Maguire	Charlynn and Karen Walker
Liturgist	MaryLou Prevost	Marcia Kent	Anita Calcagno	Kelly Stuible-Clark	Lisa Reed
Crucifer	Karen Walker				
Soundboard	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker	TBD
Coffee Hour	Anita Calcagno and Karen Ramthun	Gla’ Spayde and Fay Schroeder	Sarah Robinson and Ellen Robinson	John and Freida Schneeberger	Pat and Lisa Reed
Nursery Care	Nicole Finney	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	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
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer
Judy Nielsen, Organist	Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Marcia Kent, Christian Education
Sue Sackett, Custodian	Kathy Burt, Congregational Life
Nicole Finney, Nursery Care Provider	Chris Clark, Christian Outreach
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	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**