

THE CHURCH WINDOW



AUGUST  
2020



PASTOR'S KEYBOARD	1	<div>210 W. Saginaw Hwy. Grand Ledge, MI 48837 grandledgeucc.org</div> <div>Phone 517-627-2336    Fax 517-627-4539 Church E-mail <a href="mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org">office@grandledgeucc.org</a> Pastor's E-mail <a href="mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org">pastor@grandledgeucc.org</a> emergency contact 517-374-0145</div>
PASTOR'S VACATION	1	

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

GO NUTS!	2	<p>Dear Ones,</p> <p>In many of my conversations nowadays, I'm hearing a lot about how much we are all enjoying the outdoors. Many of us have gardens or flowerbeds, yards or porches or, failing that, we can get to parks and lakes. I, too, find myself pulled towards the outdoors as much as possible. My children bought me a hammock for Mother's Day, so I spend some time every week under our big maple tree, watching the birds and the clouds, just resting. One of our cats particularly likes to join me on the hammock, so I have a furry companion in my weekly rests. We all need time outdoors, breathing the fresh air and just experiencing the beauty of God's creation. The summer, in particular, reminds us that abundant life is all around us all of the time. New flowers are constantly budding, baby birds and bunnies are appearing, and various fruits and vegetables are growing. I find that this constant reminder of LIFE everywhere and of beauty is a great balm to me in this uncertain time. I urge you to look for this life and beauty. God seeks to calm our souls, to grant us peace, and to just commune with us through nature. So, let us reach back to God. Let us go outside, listen to the birds, watch the bunnies, and just be. Amen.</p>
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PASTOR LAURA'S VACATION

CALENDAR	6	<p><b>Pastor Laura will be on vacation August 7-15.</b> Rev. Dawn Christenson will be providing emergency pastoral care.</p> <p>Here is her contact information; cell 517-256-4268, home 517-680-1466, email: <a href="mailto:dawn.christenson@sbcglobal.net">dawn.christenson@sbcglobal.net</a> or <a href="mailto:pastor@bostwicklakeucc.org">pastor@bostwicklakeucc.org</a>.</p> <p>Please note that there is often a delay in receipt of emails to her church email address.</p>
SCHEDULE	7	

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



I REALLY DOUBT THAT MEGAPHONE IS GOING TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED ANY FASTER

06-20-20

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THE CHURCH IS NOT BUT WOOD AND NAILS ... IT IS MADE OF THE PEOPLE WHO GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Thanks to Peter Clark 08-01-20

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DEAR LORD, BLESS US AS WE TRAVEL TODAY ...

Thanks to Shkel Rice 06-16-2000

GOVERNOR WHITMER

CHURCH CLERK UPDATE

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.**

This is the first in what I intend to be an ongoing series of updates from the Church Clerk. The Church Clerk is responsible for maintaining Membership records, as well as records of Baptisms and Weddings. I expect to supply this update for any month where there is a change.

In the first half of 2020, the following changes to our Membership occurred:

- Fay Shane died in January
- Jason Turner transferred to another church in March
- Pastor Laura became a member in June
- Jean Brown and Marge Cranson died in June

(It should be noted that pastors become members of their new church only upon their installation, hence Pastor Laura’s June, 2020 date)

BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Bernardi  
Kay Turner  
Tim Lipsey  
Reg Calcagno  
Stacy Sipes  
Hildegard Oatman  
Joy Leonard  
Freida Schneeberger  
Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage  
Lily Wilson  
Sarah Robinson  
Patty Moore  
Marty Shoemaker  
Louise Wirbel



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!

**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!

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](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>



## 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; Kaleb, Linda O., Demphna K., Brenda F., 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 June 2020	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 8,604.30	\$ 68,885.31	\$ 65,127.00	\$ 130,254.00
Expenses	<u>10,266.26</u>	<u>64,720.00</u>	<u>67,622.00</u>	<u>135,244.00</u>
Balance	\$ ( 1,661.96)	\$ 4,165.31	\$ ( 4,990.00)	\$ ( 4,990.00)

Since we had additional bills this month such as insurance and replacing the water heater in the hallway bathrooms, we have more expenses than income. We are still over \$4,000.00 in the black. Your continued support with your pledges and donations is very important. With the hope of opening our church soon, we must continue to support our church financially and spiritually. 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.

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



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.

MEALS ON WHEELS

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



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

**May 26, 2020** (The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:30 PM. (Very likely a Zoom meeting))

### Call to Order

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

This was the third 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, Chris Clark, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, and Bil Turner. Also present were Pastor Laura, Chad Frost, Brandon Frost, and Chuck Byam.

### Spiritual Reflection

Pastor Laura opened the meeting by with a meditation on the Luke passage “clothed in the power of God”, followed by a prayer.

### Open Forum

No one was present for this item.

### Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda accepted.

### Action and Discussion Items

#### Pastor’s Report

Pastor Laura reported that she was very happy to be back among us and thankful for all that has been done in her absence. She is feeling better and is easing back into her duties. She has been focusing on pastoral support, calls to members. There was agreement that that seems to be the best use of her time, specifically contact with those not connected to the church through Facebook or Zoom.

She discussed that she will not be taking time off in July as she had previously planned, and the wedding that had been scheduled for June has been postponed.

The Governor’s office will be holding a Zoom meeting with faith leaders and Pastor Laura will be participating. She hopes to be able to share the UCC’s feelings about reopening churches. She also shared that the UCC Conference office will be closed until October.

There was a general discussion regarding our forecasting when we might reopen. Concerns were shared on both sides of that issue. We will reopen the discussion after the Governors Zoom meeting.

#### Use of the Sanctuary for Video Worship Service

Chad and Brandon indicated that they are pleased to continue producing the Sunday Services, but that they will be away from home for two weeks this summer. There was a general discussion about using the Sanctuary as the location for the internet service. The consensus was that we are not comfortable with that use of the Sanctuary now.

The use of Zoom vs. Facebook as a platform for the service was also discussed. We will stay with Facebook. There is a potential to try a virtual coffee hour using Zoom sometime in the future.

#### Pastor Laura Installation Service.

Pastor Laura has discussed this with Reverend Cheryl Burke of the Conference office, and her advice is to move forward with this service, and Zoom can be used as the platform. There are a few dates available over the summer. Pastor Nicolette is a key participant and her availability is not known at this time. Pastor Laura will contact pastor Nicolette.

#### Layoff proposal.

One of the music staff members has indicated he would like to be laid off. The discussion uncovered some complications with that action. Rich will discuss the issue with all the newer music staff.

Boiler The Boiler is still on. Rich will speak with Jen about having Miles Plumbing come and shut the boiler off for the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM / Respectfully submitted, Bil Turner, Church Clerk



AUGUST 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
JULY 26 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Message by Anita Calcagno	27	28	29 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1
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.						
2 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	3	4	5 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
					Pastor Laura on vacation August 7—15.	
9 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	10	11	12 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	13	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
Pastor Laura on vacation August 7—15. If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Rev. Dawn Christenson. (page 1)						
16 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	17	18	19 6:00 pm AA 800 pm AA	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Items Due	22
23 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	24	25 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg. (ZOOM Mtg.)	26 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 10:30 am Worship on Facebook Message by Newsletter Available	31	SEPTEMBER 1	2 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5

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	Mae Clark
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

Sunday Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2020

Date	September 6th 14th Sunday after Pentecost Green	September 13th 15th Sunday after Pentecost Green	September 20th 16th Sunday after Pentecost Green	September 27th 17th Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Exodus 12:1-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Exodus 14:19-31 Matthew 18:21-35	Exodus 16:2-15 Matthew 20:1-16	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Matthew 21:23-32
Head Usher	Lisa Reed	Leah Horn	Chris Cypher	Jane Gilson
Greeters	TBD	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Ben Banks and Bruce Ramthun	Bil Turner and Jim Robinson
Ushers	TBD	John and Freida Schneeberger	Gary and Chris Cypher	Charlene Avery and Anna Miller
Crucifer	TBD			
Liturgist	Lisa Reed	Ben Banks	Joe Gilson	Bil Turner
Soundboard	Mae Clark	Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker
Coffee Hour	Pat and Lisa Reed	Gary and Kathy Burt	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Erica and Nate Oliver
Nursery Care	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney	Nicole Finney

DUE TO OUR CURRENT TIMES THESE SCHEDULES MAY CHANGE.



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Emergency Contact 517-374-0145

[grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community  
where uplifting worship and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

**Mission Statement for First Congregational UCC**

STAFF	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage	Richard Brown, Moderator
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator	Anita Calcagno, Vice Moderator
Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Bil Turner, Clerk
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

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please contact the office at [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**