

THE CHURCH WINDOW



**SEPTEMBER
2020**



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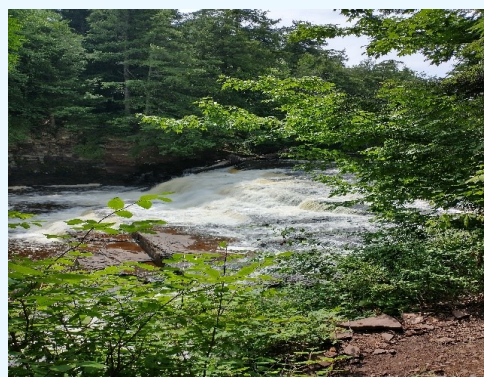
FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

As many of you know, my family and I just returned from vacation. We traveled to the UP and did a little hiking in and around the Porcupine Mountains, swam in Lake Superior several times, visited the Copper Harbor and Houghton areas, and finally saw Pictured Rocks. We spent almost all of our time exclusively outdoors, hiking to waterfalls and resting on beaches. One of my favorite places was a waterfall in Porcupine. The main falls are reachable by a boardwalk, but once you leave that walk, you can climb a little trail to what you think are the top of the falls. But as you reach that area, you find there are more falls further up, and then more and more. It seemed to be just one little cascade after another. And the water had carved out little nooks in the land, so a tree and its roots would jut out over the river but, just on the other side of the tree, you would find little inlets or pools of water. And as we hiked, we heard song birds chirping, and would occasionally see turtles sunning themselves on a rock. It was a truly beautiful and restful place.

This vacation reminded me of the importance of rest. God called all of us to rest—fully and truly rest—one day a week. Leviticus 25 contains even more laws of rest, where the people are required to let their land rest once every seven years, and a Jubilee year every 50 years, where the people must release all servants and slaves, forgive all debts, visit their families, and basically just rest for an entire year. Can you imagine resting for a year! God calls all of these resting days and years, holy—a time dedicated to God.

And so as school starts up again and many parents and grandparents are juggling work from home, schooling from home, plus all their regular activities; as summer ends and this Covid isolation starts to wear on our hearts and souls; as the months go by and we struggle to support the civil rights of our black and brown skinned siblings; as one of the most important elections in the history of our nation nears and so many of us spend huge amounts of time reading, learning, and advocating; as our list of things that drain our energy, our bodies, and our spirits goes on and on, let us remember that resting is holy. Do not forget to rest today, and tomorrow, and the next day. Do not forget to take a day of Sabbath once a week. God yearns for time with you, and if you can make that time of rest in order to be with God, your soul will be renewed. Amen.



GOVERNOR WHITMER

CONGREGATORS

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.**

Summer will soon be over but we are still socially distancing and not able to have our monthly get together over lunch. We were sad to lose our dear friend Verna who died in August and will miss her beautiful presence in our lives. We will do our own special remembrance of her once we are able to be together again. Many of us continue to exchange phone calls to check on each other. Our love continues to go out to all of you and our prayers are for you to be safe and well. Be sure to let one of us know if you need anything at all! Yes, you 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)**

BIRTHDAYS

- Linda Olds
- Linda Gooley
- Alex Reed
- Kay Kulp
- Chuck Byam
- Julie Wilkinson
- Thea Oatman
- Boyd Tyler
- Ellen Robinson
- Charlene Avery
- Quinn Annis
- John Miller-Purrenhage
- Sue Ann Cole
- Connie Dible
- Pat Reed

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 Miriam (See Exodus 20:1-21) 05-06-2003
IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT WE CAN VOTE ON SOME OF THESE?

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



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; 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 July 2020	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 9,221.78	\$ 78,107.09	\$ 75,981.50	\$ 130,254.00
Expenses	<u>8,384.19</u>	<u>73,767.79</u>	<u>78,892.33</u>	<u>135,244.00</u>
Balance	\$ 837.59	\$ 4,339.30	\$ (2,910.83)	\$ (4,990.00)

Our balance is once again on the positive side. However, we must remember that our largest bills will be coming as the weather gets colder. During the last quarter of the year, we will have heating, snow removal, insurance, and pension bills. Therefore, your continued support with your pledges and donations is still 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 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

June 23, 2020

Call to Order

Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

This meeting was 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, Chris Cypher, Charlene Avery, Lynn Hart, Kim Dible-Glasser, Fay Schroeder, Anita Calcagno, Chris Clark, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, and Bil Turner. Pastor Laura was also present.

Spiritual Reflection

Pastor Laura opened the meeting with a reading from My Grandfather's Blessings regarding uncertainty.

Open Forum

No one was present for this item.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda was accepted.

Action and Discussion Items

Pastor's Report

Pastor Laura reported that she has spent the majority of her time this past month planning and leading worship and making calls to members and friends. She has switched her day off to Monday.

She let the Board know that she has resigned her position at Kettering.

Pastor Laura participated in a Zoom meeting with Lt Gov. Gilchrist and Dion Williams. It was a wide ranging discussion regarding reopening churches. They urged great caution because the virus hasn't changed, and they discussed many items to consider before reopening. The general consensus seemed to be that no matter when a church reopens, we all should start actively providing more ways to worship, and more ways to support the spiritual lives of our people at home.

The Executive Board then discussed how we might go forward in other ways of maintaining connections with members and friends. (continued)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

Use of the Sanctuary for Video Worship Service

After discussion the consensus was that we would allow the use of the sanctuary for staging and broadcasting of the Sunday Worship services. Pastor Laura and her family would continue to do Communion Sundays from her home. It was moved by Anita and seconded by Chris Clark to pay Chuck and Brandon for the full month of June.

Church Office

The Board discussed allowing Jeannette to return to working from the office when she felt it was necessary to do so. After discussion it was agreed that she could do that at her discretion, but that the church would remain closed to others.

Building Update

The small water heater in the Women's restroom has been replaced by Miles Plumbing.

Pastor Laura's Installation Service.

Pastor Laura's Installation will be this coming Sunday, June 28th at 3 PM and will be conducted on Zoom. You will need to preregister and details for that will be available in a forthcoming e-mail. The Board of Congregational Life will have informational packets available in a bin at the back door of the church. Pastor Nicolette will be preaching.

Pastor Laura's Call Agreement

Rich, Karen and Pastor Laura will be meeting to review her Call Agreement as the one year anniversary approaches. A motion was made by Karen, seconded by Chris Cypher to increase the compensation by 3%. Motion passed. Please inform Fay as to final details regarding distribution of the compensation changes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m. (Very likely a Zoom meeting)

Respectfully submitted,
Bil Turner, Church Clerk



SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
August 30 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Message by Rev. Virginia Schiefelbein	31	September 1	2 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
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.						
6 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	7	8	9 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	10	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	14	15	16 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	17	18 OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Items Due	19
20 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook	21	22	23 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Message by Thea Oatman Newsletter Available	28	29 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg. (ZOOM Mtg.)	30 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	October 1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3

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
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

Sunday Schedule for OCTOBER 2020

Date	October 4th 18th Sunday after Pentecost Green	October 11th 19th Sunday after Pentecost Green	October 18th 20th Sunday after Pentecost Green	October 25th 21st Sunday after Pentecost Green
Text	Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Matthew 21:33-46	Ex. 32:1-14 Matthew 22:1-14	Ex. 33:12-23 Matthew 22:15-22	Deut. 34:1-12 Matthew 22:34-46
Head Usher	Leah Horn	Lisa Reed	Jane Cosper	Chris Cypher
Greeters	John and Freida Schneeberger	Bil Turner and Ben Banks	Anna Miller and Patty Curtis	Gla' Spayde and Charlene Avery
Ushers	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Chris and Kelly Clark	Kim Dible and Leah Horn	Terry Bouck and Elva Maguire
Liturgist	MaryLou Prevost	Dr. Marcia Kent	Anita Calcagno	Kelly Stuitable-Clark
Crucifer	Karen Walker			
Soundboard	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
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**