

THE CHURCH WINDOW



**OCTOBER
2020**



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210 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
grandledgeucc.org

Church E-mail office@grandledgeucc.org
Pastor's E-mail pastor@grandledgeucc.org
emergency contact 517-374-0145

Phone 517-627-2336 Fax 517-627-4539

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

One of the things that many of us have enjoyed over the past few months has been our ability to get outside, visit people in their yards, or even just sit and look at the sunshine filled world through our windows. Although there is great beauty in fall and winter, I think many of us feel concerned about the ways that the colder weather and darker days will limit our activity. This limitation is a real concern and worth addressing right now. We need resilience and creativity to get through this time of isolation, so I urge you to start making plans right now. Think about what you, personally, need for your body, soul, heart, and mind. And, if you cannot get or do those things in the way you normally have, what's a different way you can nurture yourself? Here are a few things I'm thinking about for me and my family:

- Jesus tells us not to be anxious about tomorrow and, as an antidote to anxiety, urges us to work for the Kin-dom of God. I wonder if there are any volunteer or advocacy activities you could commit to during this time? Can you set aside 3-4pm every weekday, for example? Perhaps you could write notes of encouragement to kids, teens, and their caregivers, or to individuals living alone? Perhaps you could read the Michigan League for Public Policies' Advocacy page and then, daily, write or call a political representative about issues important to you? Perhaps you could reach out to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Ledge or Advent House in Lansing to ask how you might support their missions to feed and support the hungry and underhoused? Or maybe you'd like to sign up for some ONA webinars at <https://openandaffirming.org/ona-webinars/> What one or two ways can you work for the Kin-dom of God by helping others at this time?
- Do you have a devotional, a prayer practice, or a meditation practice? If not, consider putting one in place right now. The UCC offers several devotionals and podcasts, such as: https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional or https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic
- Do you have the technology that you need to watch our worship services and connect with loved ones? If not, who can help you get it? Who might help you learn to use Zoom or a social network site, like Facebook?
- Who is your support network—friends, family, sponsors? Can you make some standing plans to connect with them somehow? Maybe you want to agree to a coffee time, an on-line game time, or an on-line cocktail hour? Maybe you would like to make some appointments with a therapist or your pastor?
- How can you keep active during shorter, colder days? Consider looking up exercise routines on YouTube that are best for your body. Start them now so that they are a habit when you cannot get outside. Or perhaps, if you can tolerate the cold and have the resources, now is a good time to buy snowshoes or cross-country skis?
- What new hobby or craft might feed your soul during this time? Can you make yourself a list of books, podcasts, or shows that will both inform you and give you some joy?
- How will you find laughter every day? Can you line up videos, movies, joke books, books, and podcasts so that, when you're feeling really down, you can just turn to them?

In short, my dear ones, this upcoming fall and winter may be hard, but it is a difficulty we can prepare for. Having a plan in place now, even having practices in place now, can help you cope if those hard times come. Maybe more importantly, making plans now can ease your anxiety because they can give you a sense of control in these uncertain times. Most of all, remember that God and your church community are with you and will continue to walk alongside you, making the path smoother and lighting your way.

Blessings,
Pastor Laura



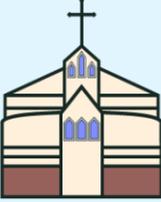
GOVERNOR WHITMER

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 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.**

CHURCH CLERK'S UPDATE

In August, Louise Wirbel joined our congregation by transferring her membership.

Welcome
to our
Church Family


BIRTHDAYS

Judy Nielsen
Jane Gilson
Ben Banks
Jim Robinson
Mary Oles
Charlynn Walker
Gwen Knight
Nicole Finney

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

**WILDFIRE RELIEF**

From the UCC Website: "As wind-whipped wildfires continue to take lives and destroy forests, homes and businesses on the West Coast of the United States, United Church of Christ congregations are in stages ranging from evacuation to recovery to post-traumatic stress syndrome... COVID has already made communities, families and individuals more vulnerable, and now this. Pray for all those people and creatures affected as well as the earth itself. As the requests for giving come, give what you can. As the requests for advocacy come, participate. We can best do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, together."

To read more, please go to:

https://www.ucc.org/news_west_coast_fire_evacuations_take_toll_on_ucc_churches_camps_and_their_communities_09162020

To donate to relief efforts, please go to:

https://www.ucc.org/2020_wildfires

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



JOIN THE SPOOKTACULAR FUN!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 1:00 P.M.

Decorate a pumpkin! We will have socially distanced fun outside the church. Pumpkins will be used to decorate for the Trunk-or-Treat extravaganza. Supplies will be provided for a creative fun time!



**HALLOWEEN
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 31
1:00 - 2:00 P.M.**

TRUNK-OR-TREAT!

This year's Trunk-or-Treat will be a socially distanced drive through Halloween display of trunks and pumpkins with a bagged treat at the end for all of the kids.



Due to cancellation of many other Halloween events in the area, we are expecting more children this year. We are looking for individuals to donate money for candy. Please send a donation to the church office marked "Trunk-or-Treat". The goodie bags will include wrapped candies that were carefully bagged with love by individuals wearing gloves and masks.

We also need trunks to make this a success. Please text Marcia at 206-300-1475 with your name and that you will do a trunk. You may begin setting up your trunk at 12:30 p.m. We will do socially distanced (trunks/people 6 feet apart and masked). It will be a drive through Trunk-or-Treat display, much like drive through Christmas light displays.

Prizes will be announced on November 1st.



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, and the fires in California as well as; Ben B., Dave G., Corey, Kaleb, Linda O., Demphna K., Brenda F., Beth P., Darrell B., Doris B., Lili B., Kathy H., Cindy G., Barbara N., Geri L., Robert E., Larry and Carol S., Jim H., Karen W., and Anna C.

Those who mourn: Please keep the family and friends of Darrel Brunger in your prayers.

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.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Ben Banks has asked to be added to the prayer list. He has been having silent strokes that have caused seizures and he asks for prayers of support, that he may receive the tests and medications that he needs quickly.

INCOME & EXPENSE BALANCE SHEET

| | Actual August 2020 | Actual Year-to-Date | Budget Year-to-Date | Annual Budget |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$ 9,527.00 | \$ 87,634.09 | \$ 86,836.00 | \$ 130,254.00 |
| Expenses | <u>7,413.55</u> | <u>81,151.34</u> | <u>90,162.67</u> | <u>135,244.00</u> |
| Balance | \$ 2,113.45 | \$ 6,482.75 | \$ (3,326.67) | \$ (4,990.00) |

Our balance is once again on the positive side. As winter progresses, 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 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.



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.



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

July 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Moderator Rich Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

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.

PRESENT: Rich Brown, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Anita Calcagno, Chris Cypher, Chris Clark, Lynn Hart, Charlene Avery, Kim Dible, Marcia Kent, Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS: Pastor Laura read from “Emerge Blessing and Rituals for Unsheltering.”

CONSENT AGENDA: Approved

PASTOR’S REPORT: The Board approved changing Pastor Laura’s day off back to Friday. Vacation is August 7 – 15. Dawn Christenson will provide emergency pastoral care. Thank you for planning service and annual raise.

Church work: worship and sermons, meetings with Board of Outreach, Christian Education, and Clerk, pastoral care.

General UCC work and work with Grand Ledge United continues.

Conducted a sermon prep workshop.

Pastor and Jeannette has taken care of licensing for streaming music.

Chad Frost had a good idea about moving fellowship time to an outdoor venue (park, church yard). Anita Calcagno will call to find out information for reserving pavilion at Fitzgerald Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

Salaries: A discussion was held regarding continuing the payment of salaries. It was decided that since we are in good standing to continue to pay the salaries and this matter will be checked every month.

Worship Services: People asking why we are not meeting for services. Karen Holcomb-Merrill reported that the UCC conference is recommending not to meet yet. A discussion was held regarding drive-in service. It was decided to leave as is since it would be later in the fall before we could get them started and cold weather would be setting in.

Call Agreement: The only change in the language to make it easier to change her schedule when necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Board Meetings: We discussed making the meeting available by Zoom to the entire congregation. The announcement will be in the Thursday Pause for people to contact the office administrator for the Zoom information when available.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26

NEXT MEETING: August 25, 2020 via internet. Instructions will be sent later.

Respectfully submitted,
Fay Schroeder



OCTOBER 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat. |
|--|--------|--|--------------------------------|----------|--|------|
| September 27 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am | 28 | 29 | 30 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA | 1 | 2 OFFICE CLOSED | 3 |
| 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. | | | | | | |
| 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am | 5 | 6 | 7 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA | 8 | 9 OFFICE CLOSED | 10 |
| 11 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am | 12 | 13 | 14 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA | 15 | 16 OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Items Due | 17 |
| 18 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am | 19 | 20 | 21 6:00 pm AA 800 pm AA | 22 | 23 OFFICE CLOSED | 24 |
| 25 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am Newsletter Available | 26 | 27 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg. (ZOOM Mtg.) | 28 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA | 29 | 30 OFFICE CLOSED | 31 |

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 Cospers | 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 Stuible-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 |

Sunday Schedule for NOVEMBER 2020

| Date | November 1st 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Green | November 8th 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Green | November 15th 24th Sunday after Pentecost Green | November 22nd Reign of Christ Green or White | November 29th 1st Sunday of Advent Violet |
|--------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Text | Josh 3:7-17 Matthew 23:1-12 | Josh 24:1-3, 14-25 Matthew 25:1-13 | Judg 4:1-7 Matthew 25:14-30 | Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 Matthew 25:31-46 | Isa 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37 |
| Head Usher | Leah Horn | Karen Ramthun | Jane Gilson | Gary Burt | Chris Cypher |
| Greeters | Ron Erskine and Kim Dible | Rich Brown and Tony Bray | Ben Banks and Jim Robinson | Bil Turner and Jim Robinson | Fay Schroeder and Mae Clark |
| Ushers | Joe and Jane Gilson | John and Freida Schneeberger | Gary and Chris Cypher | Charlene Avery and Anna Miller | Chris and Kelly Clark |
| Crucifer | Bruce Ramthun | | | | |
| Liturgist | Lisa Reed | Ben Banks | Joe Gilson | Bil Turner | Anita Calcagno |
| Soundboard | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Coffee Hour | Pat and Lisa Reed | Gary and Kathy Burt | Rich Brown and Tony Bray | Erica and Nate Oliver | Tina Lamer and Julie Wilkinson |
| 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

Fax: 517- 627- 4539

Office E-mail: office@grandledgeucc.org

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**