

# THE CHURCH WINDOW



**NOVEMBER  
2020**



PASTOR'S KEYBOARD	1
BIRTHDAYS	2
GOVERNOR WHITMER	2
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY	2
SISTERS OF RUTH	2
PEANUT BRITTLE	2
G.L. FOOD BANK	3
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS	4
PRAYER REQUEST	4
INCOME & EXPENSE	4
WILDFIRE RELIEF	5
HEALTH CONCERNS	5
FAREWELL	6
KIDS CORNER	6
EXECUTIVE BOARD	7 & 8
CALENDAR	9
SCHEDULE	10

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

You will probably remember that, back in January, I gave a sermon where I referred to the Disney movie *Frozen II*, and titled it "Do the Next Right Thing." Little did I know at that time how much I would be thinking about that concept this year. The Holy Spirit so often speaks and gives us advice long before we actually need it. The idea, in that movie, is that when we become overwhelmed by anxiety, fear, grief, or even by the many stresses of the world, what we need to do is to just take one step at a time—the next *right* step, the next *right* thing.

Considering the upcoming election and the tensions in our country, I think that the next right thing for us is to focus on protecting our democratic process. As Christians, we believe that every person is a vital part of the whole body of God, and that each person offers a unique perspective. For that reason, we Christians believe that every beloved child of God needs to be heard during this election; every beloved child needs to be able to cast a vote and our democracy needs to be preserved.

Believing that this is true, I urge you to follow the guidance of the Justice and Local ministries in the UCC, which is as follows:

1. Vote! Make a safe voting plan; vote early if you can. Yesterday, Governor Whitmer recommended that if you haven't voted yet, please drop your ballot at a ballot box. Don't send it in the mail at this point. If you need a ride to a drop box, please let me know. We'll get you there.
2. If you're not registered to vote yet, you can still do that. In Michigan, you can register to vote as late as voting day, at your local Clerk's office or even at the polls. Again, if you need a ride to any of these places or if you need help finding your polling place or your Clerk's office, please let me know.
3. Help friends and family make their voting plans. Spread the word by sharing with your networks and community that you voted.
4. Contact your local elections board to ask what steps it is taking to protect the integrity of the electoral process.
5. Share election protection resources with your community and family (866-OUR-VOTE) and know your rights at the polls. If you or someone you know experiences voter intimidation, call the election protection hotline. Check [these resources](#) in advance.

Finally, my dear ones, we might not know the results of the election right away. Rules about when absentee ballots can be counted, combined with the possibility that some candidates might contest results, makes it likely that we won't know the results for many days. Be ready for that. We, as people of God, know how to wait with patience. We remember that the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. So if we need to wait for some time, we can support our community with these fruits, urging others to act with love, patience, and kindness.

Have courage and faith, my dear ones. The love of God surrounds and supports us all of the time and we will get through this together, one right step at a time.

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 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.**

## SISTERS OF RUTH

Sisters of Ruth (SOR) are working on their community service project for S.I.R.E.N. Shelter. They are asking for donations of travel size containers of personal care products. These products will be assembled into Personal Care Packets for the individuals that must leave their homes due to an abusive situation. They are asking for toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hair brushes, deodorants, shampoos, conditioners, lotions, soaps, razors, and feminine products. They **also need hand towels and washcloths.** Personal Care Packets will be provided for; women, children, and men. They will be collecting these items during the month of November and will assemble the Personal Care Packets in December.

There will be a collection box in the west entrance of the church (mailbox side) for your donations. The donations will be picked-up on a regular basis.

For many years, the Sisters of Ruth have been collecting for this community service project. This year it was delayed because of the COVID pandemic. When speaking with the S.I.R.E.N. Shelter, they indicated that they really need these items this year because of fewer donations and more need.

## BIRTHDAYS

Virginia Schiefelbein - Anniversary of Ordination  
 Jack Bernardi  
 Brandon Frost  
 Sue Sackett  
 Chris Clark  
 Karen Holcomb-Merrill  
 Terry Bouck



If your birthday has been inadvertently missed, please contact the church office at 627-2336 or [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship Sunday is November 8, 2020. Drive-by collection of pledge cards will take place on the **8th from 1-2 p.m.** at the **front door of the church.** Please help your church continue to share love.

## PEANUT BRITTLE

If you are missing your annual purchase of Liberty Church's Peanut Brittle, you can still purchase it by contacting John VanDouser at 517-862-5638. It is \$5.00 per bag.



Beloved,  
 let us love one another,  
 because love is from God;  
 everyone who loves  
 is born of God  
 and knows God. 1 John 4:7

**Beloved,** LOVE

## GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK

Dear Friends,

I hope this note finds you all as well as possible. We continue to find ourselves in very altered times but, with patience and hope, we all will find our way to better days. The food bank continues to operate to support the needs of Grand Ledge. The community has been supportive during the long months of Covid and we thank you for your support. There is no need for food item donations at this time due to the altered function of the food bank but there are some updates to share.

Grand Ledge Meijer is once again offering their Simply Give Program. There are more than two months to participate this fall, from **October 25th, 2020 to January 2nd, 2021**. There are cards available near the check-out lanes to purchase for \$10.00. Each card purchased will be matched by Meijer and result in a \$20.00 donation to the food bank. There are two extra important dates to remember that are Double Match Days. Every \$10.00 card purchased on **Tuesday, December 1st and Saturday, December 12th** will result in a \$30.00 donation to the food bank. Thanks for your help spreading the word about this program. It truly is a way to stretch every dollar to help our neighbors.

The food bank is in need of a few **volunteers** to help in the food room. This involves **sorting food and packing food orders** which have been received by telephone. The recommended precautions are in place. Masks are required. There is minimum client contact. Clients ring the doorbell and the food order is brought to the door. Clients are allowed in the building by appointment only and are required to wear a mask. Please call Mary Holz, 517-627-4348, if interested.

We will once again be offering Christmas gifts to the food bank clients beginning early December. Donations of new practical gifts and toys would be appreciated.

**Ideas include:**

Socks, all sizes  
Body Wash  
Lotion  
Tools  
Kitchen Utensils  
Towels  
Toys, games and puzzles  
Throw size blankets  
Gently used Christmas Decorations

**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.

In addition to the gift ideas, we are in need of **gently used coats** in all sizes and baby/toddler clothes, especially baby boy clothes.

All donated items should be brought to the building directly behind the food bank accessed from the large parking lot during regular hours of operation which are Tuesdays 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Thursdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Please call 517-627-4348 with questions.

Many thanks for your support!

Peace,

Cheryl Mulder

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

## 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., 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.

**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 September 2020	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$ 8,992.00	\$ 96,626.87	\$ 97,690.50	\$ 130,254.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>7,487.81</u>	<u>89,040.06</u>	<u>100,999.67</u>	<u>135,244.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 1,504.97	\$ 7,586.81	\$ ( 3,742.50)	\$ ( 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.



## 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](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](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](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>

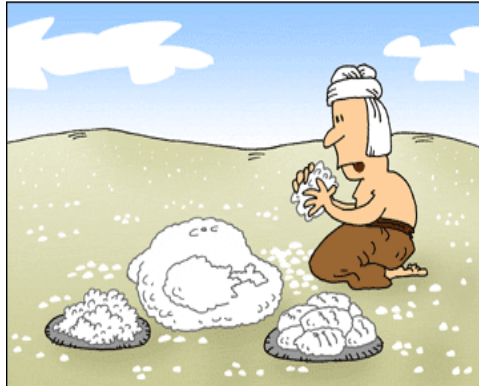
<https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/covid-19-resources-and-update>

[https://www.ucc.org/news\\_ucc\\_churches\\_establish\\_protocols\\_preach\\_awareness\\_not\\_panic\\_as\\_covid\\_19\\_cases\\_grow\\_03102020](https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_churches_establish_protocols_preach_awareness_not_panic_as_covid_19_cases_grow_03102020)



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

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Numbers 14)  
THANKSGIVING IN THE WILDERNESS

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Stacy Jackson (See Exodus 16)  
DUDE, THAT'S NOT MANNA

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Numbers 14)  
WHEN I WAS A KID WE DIDN'T HAVE NO SISSY MANNA ... WE ATE SAND AND WE LIKED IT

## FAREWELL

Dear Friends and Members,

As of October 10 of this year, I have been with First Congregational United Church of Christ for 10 years. It has been an amazing adventure and my joy to work for this Congregation. I truly believe that God led me to this position. Shortly before accepting this position, I had prayed; God you know my heart and talents and to lead me to where I could make a difference. I believe it was the next week that my friend, Denise Zakerski, called me and asked if I would be interested in taking over her position at FCUCC. The rest is history.

It has been remarkable and humbling to watch this congregation's faith in action time after time to get important things done. Whether those tasks were collecting for the Stewardship Pledge Drive, the Trash to Treasure sale, the water crisis in Flint, buckets for a hurricane clean up, food collection for the Grand Ledge Food Bank, Blessings in a Backpack, the baby clothing collection, Christmas Baskets, Thanksgiving collections, S.I.R.E.N. Eaton Shelter collections, personal care packets for high school students in Grand Ledge, for individuals in need, and the list goes on and on. Your faith is strong and impressive!

Psalm 37:23 says; Our steps are made firm by the LORD, when he delights in our way.

My last day with FCUCC is Thursday, October 29th. I will treasure each memory and pray for the health and well-being of the friends and members of First Congregational United Church of Christ. Again, thank you for your support, prayers, and encouragement. Once we are on the other side of COVID I would love to come back to visit and say a proper good bye.

May God's Grace and Peace always be in your path,

Jeannette Len

## KIDS CORNER



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

August 25, 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.

Board Members present: Rich Brown, Charlene Avery, Lynn Hart, Fay Schroeder, Anita Calcagno, and Karen Holcomb-Merrill. Pastor Laura was also present.

### **Spiritual Reflection**

Pastor Laura opened the meeting the reading of “Revive Us Again” by Rev. Talitha Arnold

### **Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

### **Consent Agenda**

Consent Agenda was accepted.

### **Action and Discussion Items**

#### *Pastor's Report*

- Pastor Laura thanked everyone for her vacation and the people who substituted for her while she was away.
- Pastor Laura reported on her meetings within the church and pastoral care.
- Pastor Laura also reported on meetings outside the church and training that she has attended.
- Pastor Laura thanks those who have helped with Facebook, Christian Ed, fellowship, and the streaming of our service.
- Pastor Laura asked how the Board felt about an outdoor service. It was discussed that we would not have enough time to set it up before the weather changed. The Board also discussed letters to the congregation that the Calling Circle advise people of the updated Facebook Live Services and the in-person Fellowship Hour.
- Pastor Laura asked about delegates to the Covenant Association and the Michigan Conference. She will ask Chris Clark and Lily Mai.
- Pastor Laura reported on the licensing of streaming the music. She thanked the people for their research. Marcia Kent made a motion to authorize the Music Committee to purchase a streaming license to meet the church's needs. Seconded by Anita Calcagno. Motion carried.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (continued)

### Monthly Financial Update

The month July ended with a positive balance of \$837.59 and a total positive balance for the year of \$4,339.30.

### Delegate to Michigan UCC Covenant Association Fall Virtual Gathering

Anita Calcagno will attend as a delegate. Pastor Laura asked that the Board consider electing delegates that will serve for one year. The Board discussed placing this on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

### Fellowship Hour September 6

Anita Calcagno reported that she has purchased wrapped treats for the outdoor fellowship hour to be held at the church on September 6. She is setting up a Zoom meeting for those that will not be in attendance.

### Boiler Update

Miles Plumbing gave a firm bid to replace the boiler at \$43,048.00 with \$21,000 due at acceptance and the rest due at completion.

### Adjournment

Since there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be September 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Fay Schroeder



## NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
<b>NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am	2	3	4 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	5	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	7
<b>Due to the Coronavirus 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.</b>						
<b>8 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am	9	10	11 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	12	13 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	14
15 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am	16	17	18 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	19	20 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Newsletter Items Due	21
22 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am	23	24 6:30 pm Executive Board Mtg. (ZOOM Mtg.)	25 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  HAPPY THANKSGIVING	27 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	28
29 <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Zoom Café Fellowship 11:30 am  Newsletter Available	30	<b>DECEMBER 1</b>	2 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	3	4 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5

## Sunday Schedule for NOVEMBER 2020

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

## Sunday Schedule for DECEMBER 2020

<b>Date</b>	<b>December 6th</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent Violet	<b>December 13th</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent Violet	<b>December 20th</b> 4th Sunday of Advent Violet	<b>December 24th</b> Christmas Eve White	<b>December 27th</b> 1st Sunday after Christmas White
<b>Text</b>	Isa 40:1-11 <b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	Isa 61:1-4, 8-11 <b>John 1:6-8, 19-28</b>	2 Sam 7:1-11, 16 <b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	Isa 9:2-7 <b>Luke 2:1-14, 15-20</b>	Isa 61:10-62:3 <b>Luke 2:22-40</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Chris Cypher</b>	<b>Gary Burt</b>	<b>Karen Ramthun</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Kathy Burt</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	John and Freida Schneeberger	Rich Brown and Tony Bray	Bil Turner and Ben Banks	<b>TBD</b>	Chris and Kelly Clark
<b>Ushers</b>	Anna Miller and Patty Curtis	Joe and Jane Gilson	Terry Bouck and Elva Maguire	<b>TBD</b>	Gla' Spayde and Charlene Avery
<b>Liturgist</b>	Marcia Kent	MaryLou Prevost	Kelly Stuble-Clark	<b>TBD</b>	Anita Calcagno
<b>Crucifer</b>	Karen Walker				
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Sarah Robinson and Ellen Robinson	Anita Calcagno and Karen Ramthun	John and Freida Schneeberger		Gla' Spayde and Fay Schroeder
<b>Nursery Care</b>	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**

<b>STAFF</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b>
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage 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	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](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)**