



THE CHURCH WINDOW

April 2022



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

A little while ago, we received the thank you note that I cut and pasted below from Lisa Nelson at Hayes Intermediate School. I want to thank you all, and especially Sandy Sipes, for your gifts of time, money, prayers, and ideas to support the school. Things sound like they're going really, really well so far! This is such an important ministry, Dear Ones! I am so excited and honored to be a part of it!!

Blessings, Pastor Laura

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller,

On behalf of Hayes Intermediate staff, we would like to thank First Congregational Church of Christ for supporting our staff and students! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and has encouraged us so much.

We appreciate the thoughtful donations of clothing and snacks. The dinner for the secretaries was very generous and delicious. The basket of delicious goodies for celebrating the counselors was so enjoyable. Our staff was surprised by the sweet Valentine's and that put a smile on all of our faces. When we played the matching sock game, all of our staff were out and about trying to find their match. Even the students were trying to help their teachers find their partner. There were smiles, giggles, and friendly competitive banter.

Sandy Sipes has been a joy to work with and deserves a shoutout.

We have truly been blessed to have your support this year and wanted to express our deepest gratitude to your members. The Grand Ledge community is such a special group of people, and you are playing such a critical role in spreading love, positivity, and encouragement to others. You have put some wind in our sails which allows us to have the extra compassion that our students so desperately need.

Thank you very much,
Hayes Staff

FROM THE PASTOR’S KEYBOARD (CONT.)

Dear Ones,

We are in the middle of the season of Lent, a time of contemplation, repentance, and prayer. This year, our focus is on looking for, finding and using the gifts that God sets for us on our wilderness journey. You might remember that, as the Israelites wandered the desert for 40 years, they constantly encountered gifts from God that strengthened them, sustained them, and gave them hope. Some of those gifts were exactly what the people needed and prayed for—guidance, water in the desert, encouragement, God’s presence. I’ve noticed while reading the wonderful Lenten devotionals that you wrote that several of you found the word you were asked to pray over to be that kind of welcome gift. Love, kindness, hope, rest—these are gifts that help us feel encouraged. They help us feel connected to rest of our community and to God’s vision for us.

Some of the gifts the Israelites received probably were not what they had asked for—like manna. It was apparently good tasting, but it was an odd substance made of bug secretions. And after having that every day for breakfast for a few months, it must have gotten annoying. Still, it provided what the Israelites needed so that, when they reached the promised land, they could thrive. Manna makes me think of Covid masks, actually. They were a blessing when we first put them on and they still provide our community with safety and are still a blessing, but many of us are kind of sick of them. Some of you had a similar reaction to the words you were asked to pray over. Honestly, who would want to receive fortitude, perseverance, or self-control as a spiritual gift? Needing fortitude means that you’re going through something rough. Needing self-control means that some part of ourselves needs to be reigned in. And yet these, too, are gifts because they do give us another aspect of what we need to get through the wilderness. My sense is that you writers who shared your thoughts about these harder words did find them to be spiritual gifts. I certainly have found something I needed in reading your devotionals.

I think that’s why we have to really keep our eyes open on this Lenten journey. If it were up to me, I’d find water and God’s presence everywhere on my path and forget the sticky bug secretions. But I need breakfast, just like I need fortitude, perseverance, and self-control. So it is my prayer that we all keep finding what we need in our wilderness. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Laura

Exploring Faith Class Celebration

This winter, two of our youth have been taking a special exploring your faith class. We are very proud of the work that they've been doing and will hold a special celebratory worship service for them on Sunday, April 24th. If you are able, that will be a great day to attend worship, in person or on-line.

Adopt Hayes Update

With help from Tamara Lipsey and her boys, “Lifesaver Candy Bags” we’re delivered to the 90 employees along with a note indicating they are lifesavers on behalf of our church. Sandy baked and dropped off desserts to the secretaries , counselors and principals. A March Bingo game at a staff meeting with gift cards to the winners also took place. Trying to make sure each employee is recognized will start up again after Spring Break.

CONGREGATORS

Beloved Congregators, We're in the midst of Lent and enjoying the Lenten Devotional composed by our church families. Palm Sunday and Easter are fast approaching. We've experienced the first day of spring, and the days are getting longer! We've had chilly days and nights and some warm, spring-like ones. Crocuses are blooming and daffodils are reaching toward the sky. Birds are chirping their spring song if you are fortunate enough to be out in the morning to hear! And they are gathering nesting materials! At our well-attended March lunch, we decided to start meeting regularly on the first Tuesday each month, 1 p.m. at Sophia's. So, we hope to see you on Tuesday, April 5! As always, please be sure to get in touch with one of us to let us know you can make it or if you need a ride. All are welcome!

Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019)

Recycling Events

Eaton County is hosting 3 Recycling Events. All of which require registration to participate in. Registration for these events opened on March 15, 2022, however each event has their own deadline.

<https://www.eatoncounty.org/913/Recycling-Events-Programs>

Spring Cleanup, May 7, 2022 in Delta Township. Registration will be open until the Wednesday prior to the date of the event at 12:00pm or until maximum participant capacity is reached. Please use the website link listed above to register.

Recycling Fever, June 18, 2022 in Charlotte. Registration will be available until the Wednesday prior to the date of the event at 12:00 pm or until maximum participant capacity is reached. Registration information can be found at the website link listed above.

Recycle-Palooza, August 13, 2022 in Charlotte. Registration will be available until the Wednesday prior to the date of the event at 12:00 pm or until maximum participant capacity is reached. Registration information can be found at the website link listed above.

Flyers for all 3 events have been posted in the hallway. They can also be found at the website link posted above. If you would like a flyer sent to you, let me know and I'll email one! Please be sure to check the flyers

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 call the **church office at 627-2336** to notify the pastor of any prayer concerns you would like to share.

Health concerns: Pray for family and friends with health concerns and those who have 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 affected by the Coronavirus as well as all those on our prayer list: Darlene B., Corey, Kaleb, Beth P., Doris B., Lili B., Kathy H., Cindy G., Carole S., Barbara N., Geri L., Robert E., Larry and Carol S., Anna C., Marty S, Maryann, Patricia R., Sarah B., Jenna P., Ron, Katy R, Sue C., Caieya C., Ashley R., Eric, Heather and their families, Lee W., Dan B., Phillip C., Ann E., and Shirley B. *In being consistent with the HIPAA Law and people's privacy, we only list individuals with their explicit permission and no last names. During worship, please do not use personal identifiable information for others when asking for prayers.*

WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS (W GOD)

W GOD met on March 21, 2022 for a brown bag lunch and discussion chapters 18 through 26 of the book "In Sickness and In Health" by Pastor Barbara Edema. This is book five in the Pastor Maggie series with great topics for discussion in every day life and suggestions for us to help each other.

Our next meeting will be April 18, 2022. We will once again brown bag our own lunch. Then, we will continue the discussion of the above book by reading from Chapter 27 to the end of the book. Since we will finish this book, we are looking for our next great book to read. Please bring suggestions to the April or May meeting.

If you have any questions, contact Fay Schroeder at fschroeder4200@yahoo.com or (517) 627-2727.

SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

Five members of Sisters of Ruth met for lunch on Monday, March 14, 2022 at A & W, Grand Ledge. We discussed our next community service project which is the personal care kits for the S.I.R.E.N Shelter. The S.I.R.E.N. Shelter is a shelter to help ones who must leave home because of abuse. It is based in Charlotte but helps anyone who lives in Eaton County. April 1, 2022, we will put a box in the west double doors (by the mailbox) for collecting small sizes of all personal items such as: shampoo, conditioner, body wash or soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, razors, deodorants, etc. We also need hand towels and washcloths to put in each kit. We will be collecting these articles throughout the month of April. We will be checking the box several times each week and taking all donated items into the church. During our May 9, 2022 meeting, we will assemble the personal care kits in the Fellowship Hall.

Our next luncheon meeting will be on April 11, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. We will announce the restaurant later through Thursday Pause and the announcements.

GL Food Bank

The GL Food Bank is in need of clean "Ensure-like" bottles. If you have any, please donate them and place them in the box designated "GL Food Bank Bottles."

CHURCH YARD CLEAN-UP

Plans are underway to do our annual spring clean-up of church grounds. Last year we did a small cleanup of the Fitzgerald memorial garden before Easter and a ‘deeper clean’ later. If you would like to be contacted to help once we have set a date(s), please let me know. We usually schedule on week days but could give a Saturday crew a short to do list as well! Thank you! ...Charlene Avery 517.281.5019

Income and Expense Report

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Annual</u> |
|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | January 2022 | Year-to-Date | Year-to-Date | Budget |
| INCOME | \$13,532.58 | \$ 24,762.79 | \$ 19,997.67 | \$131,876.00 |
| EXPENSES | <u>12,946.28</u> | <u>25,115.15</u> | <u>25,135.67</u> | <u>152,326.00</u> |
| BALANCE | \$ 586.30 | (\$ 112.36) | (\$ 3,158.33) | (\$ 20,450.00) |

Thanks to your generous support through pledges and donations we are in the black for the month. However, we are still in the red for the year. This shows that your continued support is very important for the sustainability of our church.



Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery

SPRING Clean UP

MAY 7, 2022 9 am - 2 PM

*****Registration Required*****

Location is released upon completion of registration

Register online: <http://www.eatoncounty.org/913/>

ELECTRONICS: Computer Accessories, CPUs, Printers, Fax Machines, Scanners, TVs, Cell Phones, Laptops, CD Players, Camcorders, Copiers, Small Kitchen Appliances, Remote Control Items, Fans, Hair Dryers & Curling Irons, or Anything with a Cord.

****NO FREON CONTAINING ITEMS, AIR CONDITIONERS, OR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT****

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE: Acids & bases, Aerosols (No empty cans), Asbestos, Asphalt & Roofing Tar, Automotive Fluids, Cleaners & Polishes, Varnishes, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fire Extinguishers, Flammables, Flea Collars & Sprays, Glues & Caulks, Household Cleaners, Mercury & Mercury containing Items, Oil based Paint, Paint Thinners, Pool Chemicals, Solvents, Pesticides, Herbicides, Sharps (Must be in a Puncture-Resistant Container), and Wood Preservatives.

****NO LATEX BASED PAINTS, MEDICATIONS, OR BATTERIES****

YARD WASTE: Leaves, Grass Clippings & Brush, Less than 4' Long & No More than 2" thick, May Be Dropped Off.

SCRAP METAL: **NO FREON CONTAINING ITEMS**

PARTICIPANT RULES:

1. Events are for private (non-commercial) residents of Eaton County.
2. **Registration is required and your participation is important.** If cancellation is unavoidable, please provide 48 hours notice. Limit of TWO registrations per household. Registration opens on March 15, 2022 at 12 pm and closes May 4, 2022 at 12 pm.
3. **Electronics: NO refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, or exercise equipment will be accepted. \$10 suggested donation per TV or monitor.**
4. **Household Hazardous Waste: NO latex based paints, medications, or batteries will be accepted.** Please visit our website for disposal options. **Anything over 10 1-Gallon Cans of Paint will be charged \$1 per can.**
5. **YOU MUST REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE** for the duration of the event. Workers will retrieve your recyclables for you.



For questions, cancelation notifications, or [volunteer information](#): visit <http://www.eatoncounty.org/913/>, email Recycle@eatoncounty.org, or call (517) 543-3686.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge

Executive Board Meeting Minutes January 25, 2022

Call to Order

Moderator Leah Horn called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

The meeting was held over Zoom due to Covid-19 distancing recommendations. One member attended by phone.

Board Members present: Charlene Avery, Chris Cypher, Kim Dible-Glasser, Lynn Hart, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Leah Horn, Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Thea Oatman and Fay Schroeder.

Excused Members: Chris Clark, Lisa Reed and Bil Turner.

Also present were: Gary Cypher, nominee for Member-at-large, and Mary Lou Prevost, nominee for Church Clerk and substituting for Bil Turner.

Spiritual Reflection

Pastor Laura began with thanks to the Board for all of their outstanding dedication and work during the pandemic recognizing that this will be the last Board meeting for some as they fulfill their term of office. She led the group in a prayer.

Open Forum

No one was present for this item.

Consent Agenda

The Pastor's Report was removed from the Consent Agenda since she was on vacation prior to the meeting. The remaining items were accepted.

Item Removed from Consent Agenda and Item Discussion

Pastor's Report

I. Thank you to this wonderful board, for all of the work you've done in this past year! It's been such a different year, switching to hybrid worship. You've done fantastic work!

II. Time: I worked about 66 hours in 3 weeks

III. I mainly spent on worship prep, planning, & implementation, pastoral care, upcoming confirmation class, our work with Hayes Middle school, plus administrative issues.

IV. Special Worship prep for Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of prep for Lent

V. We start our first Exploring Faith/Confirmation class tomorrow, co-taught by Karen and Demphna. Jackson and his friend Jacob are taking the class. We have been asked to offer it again in the summer for youth who can't do both the class and their schoolwork at the same time.

VI. Sandy Sipes has done quite a bit of work with Hayes already and is taking up an offering this Sunday for them.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

A discussion questioning why an offering was being asked for the Hayes school project when the plan was to fund \$1,000 for this project through a \$2,000 grant through the UCC Conference, which has not yet been received. Sandy Sipes, who is working on this project, which is for the purpose of supporting teachers, staff and personal items for the 5th and

6th graders, was also able to secure an additional \$1,000 through the Grand Ledge Shopping Tour. It should be made clear where the gift cards and cash are going and how Blessings in a Backpack can help play a part in this endeavor.

Action and Discussion Items

Facilities Update

McCardel Restoration had given the church a bid for the mold remediation in the Fellowship Hall. The church accepted the charge of \$150 for this company to provide a bid for the job, with the stipulation that this amount would go toward the cost of the payment for the job upon completion. However, they were not the company who were hired for the job. Leah contacted them about the bill two weeks ago which they said they would send. However, it has not been received to date and it is uncertain if they will send one. We are obliged to pay it in the event that it is received.

The non-working parking lot light remains a safety hazard. Leah’s husband could look at this, but not until Spring. In the meantime, it was suggested that 2 large cones be purchased to mark the edge of the driveway. Leah will call to see if she can find someone to look into this and what the cost involvement would be.

The ceiling fan replacements may cost upwards of \$4,000. They are currently working on a couple of bids. One thousand dollars from the UCC Conference grant money may help pay the cost.

Stewardship Campaign One additional pledge was received. The total amount of pledges is \$119,986. This is \$3,200 less than last year.

Board and Committee Duties

After the appointment of the new individuals, a meeting of the Chairs for the Boards will be held to update their responsibilities based on changes since Covid. The Covid protocol will be revisited when new members are in place.

Hybrid Annual Meeting Update

A Zoom link appears to be viable to use for the Annual Meeting. It is hopeful that the two new screens will be in place at that time. Everyone in attendance will be asked to sit near the front of the church. An e-mail will be sent out to everyone with the Zoom link.



New Business

Discussion of using Vanco Payment Solutions, Inc. for the purpose of sending contributions to church. Set-up for this would start with our Office Administrator.

Our Office Administrator, Larry, is comfortable with gas card handouts. A protocol is needed before begin-

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES continued

ning this process. Bring suggestions and ideas for this protocol to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

It was determined that Fay will request Demphna Krikorian, our Christian Educator, to turn in a time sheet for hours worked. This will follow the same method for keeping track of payment to David Wee, Video Technician. Both are part-time hourly employees.

Leah thanked the Board Members for all of their hard work throughout the trauma of Covid.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Mary Lou Prevost, substituting for
Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Holy Week Worship Services

Dear Ones, we have several special services on Holy Week that you are very much invited to attend:

- Sunday April 10, 10:30 am live and virtual Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 14, 7 pm live and virtual Maundy Thursday (with Communion)
- Friday, April 15 7pm at St. Michael's Parish and virtual Ecumenical Good Friday
- Sunday, April 17 8:30 am in Fitzgerald Garden (or choir room if it rains) Sunrise Easter (with Communion)
 - At 9:15 we'll hold our Easter Egg hunt (outdoors, weather permitting)
 - 10:30 Easter worship live and virtual

The Grand Ringers Need Your Help

The Grand Ringers want to come back and play for you but we need some help. If you love the music and ever had a glimmer of a thought of playing bells yourself, if you have two hands and can count to four, we can show you how to play. If you have ever played bells before, we will certainly welcome you with open arms. You do not need to know how to read music! Come to church on Easter Monday, April 11, at 6:30 pm. Remember, 90% of success in life is just showing up! Questions? Call or text Anita at 201-446-6645.

CHURCH INSTAGRAM

Our church now has an Instagram account! If you do, too, then please follow us!

The background of the poster is a photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted hill rises from the left. On top of this hill are three crosses of varying heights. The sky is a mix of deep blue at the top and warm orange and yellow near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

Community Good Friday Service

Presented by the Grand Ledge Ministerial Association

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 AT 7:00PM
ST. MICHAEL PARISH
345 EDWARDS STREET • GRAND LEDGE

Please come and participate in this wonderful night of prayer. A free will offering will be taken up in support of the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP).

April 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 10am AA Women |
| 3 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service | 4 | 5 Congregators meeting at 1pm at Sophia's | 6 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA | 7 7- 8:30 pm Choir Practice | 8 | 9 10am AA Women |
| 10 Palm Sunday 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service | 11 12:30 p..m. Sisters of Ruth | 12 | 13 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA | 14 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 15 Good Friday | 16 Holy Saturday 10am AA Women |
| 17 Easter Sunday 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service | 18 Easter Monday | 19 | 20 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA | 21 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 22 | 23 Church reserved for Wedding |
| 24 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service | 25 | 26 Serving Lunch at Southside Community Kitchen 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting | 27 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA | 28 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice | 29 | 30 10am AA Women |

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| DATE | April 3 | April 10 | April 17 | April 24 | |
| THEME | The Gift of Compassion | Palm Sunday | Easter Sunday | Confirma- tion Sunday | |
| TEXT | Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9 | Psalm 118: 1-2; 19-29 Luke 19:28-40 | Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24 | | |
| HEAD USHER | Lisa Reed | Gary Burt | Fay Schroeder | Cheryl Mattson | |
| GREETER | Pat Reed | Kathy Burt | Bil Turner | Sandy Sipes | |
| LITURGIST | Ron Erskine | Leah Horn | Sue Sackett | Mason Lipsey | |
| SOUNDBOARD | Karen Walker | Julie Wilkinson | Charlynn Walker | Julie Wil- kinson | |
| VIRTUAL COORDINATOR | David Wee | David Wee | David Wee | David Wee | |
| HYMN SINGER | Choir | Choir | Choir | Choir | |



| APRIL BIRTHDAYS | | | |
|---------------------------|------|---------------|------|
| Jason Lipsey | 2nd | Tina Erskine | 21st |
| Ben Sackett | 5th | Tony Ramos | 26th |
| Sue Lawens | 5th | Bil Turner | 28th |
| Bonnie Thompson | 6th | Brian Ramthun | 28th |
| Pastor Nicolette Siragusa | 7th | | |
| Chuck Thompson | 8th | | |
| Rich Brown | 9th | | |
| Daniell Gooley | 13th | | |
| Brian Curran | 15th | | |
| Lynn Hart | 19th | | |



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



| First Congregational UCC Mission Statement | | | |
|--|-----|---|--|
| <i>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.</i> | | | |
| PASTOR'S KEYBOARD | 1-2 | STAFF Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage Larry Patterson Office Administrator Brandon Frost, Choir Director Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director Chuck Byam, Organist & Accompanist Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator Ben Sackett, Custodian Nicole Finney, Nursery Care Provider Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus | EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS Leah Horn, Moderator Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Vice Moderator Mary Lou Prevost, Clerk Fay Schroeder, Treasurer Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large Thea Oatman, Member-at-Large Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large Kelly Stuible-Clark, Christian Education Kim Dible, Congregational Life |
| Exploring Faith Class Celebration Hayes Update | 2 | | |
| Congregators Recycling Events Thoughts and Prayers | 3 | | |
| WGOD SISTERS OF RUTH GL Foodbank Churchyard Clean-Up INCOME & EXPENSE | 3 | | |
| Board Minutes | 6-8 | | |
| Holy Week The Grand Ringers Need Your Help | | | |
| Calendar | 10 | | |
| Sunday Schedule Birthdays | 11 | | |