



THE CHURCH WINDOW

August 2022



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

I vividly remember when my oldest child went away to college—the feelings of excitement, joy, anxiety, and a small sense of relief. I don't think that it was until I got home that I felt the powerful sense of loss, not just of not being able to see and talk to him every day, but also of the change to our family dynamics. As a family, we weren't going to be who we used to be. It also caused some major changes in how our family system worked. How we spent our time changed as we didn't drive him to school, play practice or his job. How we spent our free-time changed, as we didn't go to his theater performances or watch the same tv shows as a family, but we did add more texting and phone calls into our lives. And who was going to do my son's chores?! But this transition time seemed to end quickly enough as we fell into new roles and figured out a new way of being. We got a new cat and tried some new hobbies. But then we went through this transition stage again as our second and then third child went to college, where all of those emotions came tumbling out again and family dynamics changed again. And we're about to go through it again as our first and second children both move out east for graduate school and our third returns to college. I think that, this time, we'll convert their bedrooms into home offices.

In looking back at the last seven years, I realize that our family has been, and still is, in a lengthy state of transition where we are shifting from having all of our children live together with us to an empty nest. I had never thought of transitions as things that could take so long. But I had been mistaken. Take adolescence, for example. That is a major time of transition for our bodies and it takes years to move from that to young adulthood. Or we might think of a move to a new living space as a short transition but, for many of us, it isn't really. The transition of moving actually starts when we begin to look for a new place, visit the places, figure out finances, start packing, etc. and only concludes when we unpack that last box. For me, at least, that means that moving to my current home took *years*.

Our church is in a time of transition. We made a major change from what we, as a church, knew for 150 years—that is that we chose to move from a full-time pastor to a bi-vocational or part-time pastor. But just like the other changes I have mentioned, this is one of those changes that takes time, probably more so than normal because we're also dealing with a worldwide

transition—the pandemic. We’ve gone through the initial change where we have figuratively dropped the child off at college, helped them set up their dorm room, and gone home, feeling excitement, hope, and relief. But now that part of the transition is over. Now we’re starting to grieve the loss of who and what we used to be as a church family. We’re seeing that the way we spend our time as a group and as individuals has needed to change, and we’re wondering who is going to do the college kid’s chores.

The thing about the transition where kids move out is that, even though parts of it are hard and sad, it is also often wonderful and exciting. Although we might grieve what was, most parents are also thrilled for their children and the children are thrilled for themselves, knowing that they are growing, changing, and becoming who they are supposed to be. I think that’s a helpful way to look at the changes in our church, as well. It’s okay to name and grieve the things that used to be and the things we miss from the past in our church. But it’s also helpful to embrace this time of change with excitement, knowing that God is calling us into a new way of being together. Just as when we moved out of our parent’s place or when we moved our kids out of ours, it’s possible that we need to find a new sense of purpose. So we can see this time as an opportunity to re-examine ourselves, our own calling, and the church’s calling, and to wonder how we might fulfill those together. And it’s probably also helpful to know that what we’re going through together is very normal, even necessary. So do not let your hearts be troubled, dear ones, and neither let them be afraid. That middle space, that space of transition, is where we most often find God. At the end of this, we might not have a new cat, office, or hobbies, but we’ll have something much, much better. We’ll have come together as a community with a renewed sense of purpose, dedicated to our mission together as disciples of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Summer Youth Events

The Board of Christian Education is scheduling youth events this summer. These are opportunities for our young people (geared toward grades K-5, but all ages and family members are welcome) to socialize, have some fun, and get to know each other. All events will be outside- distancing and masking are welcome as well. Specific themes/topics will be announced at a later date, but in the meantime save the date for **Sunday, August 28**. They'll take place after church, at approximately 11:45 am! For more information, please contact Kelly at kstuibs@gmail.com or 517-256-5310.

Share Your Story

We would love to hear the story of your faith journey: what inspires you, what gives you strength and hope. What brought you to First Congregational and what keeps you coming back? Please consider sharing your story with us in a short ten minute message during our worship service. Pastor Laura will be happy to give suggestions and help if needed. Please call the office or contact Kim Dible to reserve one of the following dates:

September 25

November 27

WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS

This program year will begin in September. We have decided to read the book, "The Infinite Jeff" by Will Holcomb. For our September meeting, we will read and discuss the first 10 chapters. The book can be purchased either through Amazon or at Barnes and Nobel.

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., 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 Denny E. *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.*

FCUCC Teen Fellowship (new name for Youth Group) 2022/23 Calendar:



On the first Sunday of every month, the youth of our church have started to meet. So far we have accomplished a planning meeting, canned goods collections , Hygiene Kit/Easter egg stuffing and enjoyed a heap of pizza !

All Youth Grades 6th through 12th are invited to attend.

1. **June:** Paint birdhouses and bag up birdseed to sell to church members for themselves or for us to give to the church homebound. (mini fundraiser)
2. **July:** School Supply collection begins, and miniature golf.
EXTRA: A trip to a museum this month or August!
3. **August:** Stuffing backpacks and A&W lunch!
4. **September:** Get to know you-pizza and games gathering.
5. **October:** Scary Movie with popcorn and hotdogs (we will vote on which one in September--no R-rated, though).
6. **November:** Tie blankets for shelters
7. **December:** Card signing and cookie baking to be delivered to the homebound members of our church and white elephant exchange.
8. **January:** Help organize toys at Child and Family Charities. Pizza lunch.
9. **February:** Tie blankets for shelters and Canned Food Drive.
10. **March:** Planning meeting for 2023-2024.

Demphna Krikorian can be reached at 248-396-2266, demphna@childandfamily.org . You can also share your thoughts about the program with her as well. We are always looking to improve!

ANYONE 18 and older can help as a counselor. You will need a Background check provided by the church and a short training, that's all! P.S. this experience looks great on a resume!

Thank you!

CONGREGATORS

We've decided to take the summer off so will not meet in July and August. But it's never too early to mark your calendars for our September 6 (first Tuesday) get together. We'll be in touch with details! Wishing you all a lovely summer!

Charlene (517.281.5019) or Sandy (517.420.2121)

Meetings with Pastor Laura

Dear Friends,

The pandemic interrupted Pastor Laura's ability to meet with everyone, as we went into lockdown when she had only been here for about 9 months. She would like to set up meetings with small groups of approximately 4-5 people for 1-1.5 hours and learn more about us. Specifically, she'd like to know why we attend this church. What drew us here? What do we love about our church community and what does being a part of this community mean to each of us? She'd also be open to discussing the parables we are studying this summer. We are creating a sign-up sheet, so that you can choose the best day, time, and place for you. On the sign-up, you may propose a place to meet (your own back porch, the church yard or building, your apartment or home, a nearby park). There are options to meet outside or inside, and we ask that you indicate if you prefer that those meeting with you wear masks or not. Since some of the suggested dates are after worship, please feel free to arrange to bring snacks. If none of these dates/times work for your schedule, please contact Pastor Laura to suggest an alternate date/time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Sundays. Finally, if you don't know many people in the congregation, this can be a good way to meet some folks. Just sign up for a date/time/place and see who else signs up with you!

Here is the link for the sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0844A8AF2EA0FD0-small> To sign up:

- 1) Click the link
- 2) Choose a date that works for you and press "Submit and Sign-up"
- 3) Fill out the location you would prefer, name, email, phone number and choose mask preference
- 4) Click "sign-up now"

You will then get an email confirming your sign-up.

Income and Expense Report

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	May 2022	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
INCOME	\$ 8,735.87	\$ 72,717.06	\$ 65,938.00	\$131,876.00
EXPENSES	<u>9,463.22</u>	<u>73,960.32</u>	<u>75,413.00</u>	<u>152,326.00</u>
BALANCE	(\$ 727.35)	(\$ 1,243.26)	(\$ 9,475.00)	(\$ 20,450.00)

Since June is the end of the second quarter for the year, we had some large expenses, i.e., insurance, along with the usual expenses for the month. We are still in a deficit but can improve with prayerful giving. The blessings of our church and congregation will help us through our current situation.

You are Invited to
A Sunday Prayer Worship & Seminar
for Peaceful Reunification
of the Korean Peninsula



Guest Speaker: Rev. Chung Seong Kim

Rev. Kim is an ordained minister serving as Executive Pastor of North American Pacific Asian Disciples, a supporting organization for 18 different ethnic and linguistic groups in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

His education includes multiple degrees from Seoul National University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary. He also served as general secretary of the Korean Ecumenical Peace network in North America, and his lifelong passion has been reconciliation and peace in Korean Peninsula.

A Prayer Worship Service for Peace

Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

“Changing Question, from “Who is my.....?” to “Am I?”

A Peace Seminar

Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 4:00 PM

“Forgotten War: Reconciliation & Peace in Korean Peninsula”

All are Invited to a Dinner Reception following the Seminar, 6:00 PM
At Boston’s Restaurant in Eastwood Mall – Please RSVP by Sunday, Aug. 7th

Online Participants:

Please visit online NWPC Lansing.org and use our Live Zoom Events
or use our church phone number for the Zoom ID # 5174848433

In-person participation:

North Westminster Presbyterian Church
743 North Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Lansing, MI 48195
nwpcoffice@gmail.com, Office Phone: (517) 484-8433

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge
Executive Board Meeting Minutes May 24, 2022

Call to Order:

Moderator Leah Horn called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall with 9 members in attendance.

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

Mary Lou Prevost.

Excused Members: Kelly Stuible-Clark and Fay Schroeder.

Spiritual Reflection:

Leah began with a reading centering on “pandemic related inertia” written by Vickie Kemper, a pastor in a UCC church in Massachusetts.

Open Forum:

No one was present for this item. However, there was a guest introduced by Karen Holcomb-Merrill, the Reverend Liz Miller, Pastor at Edgewood Church in East Lansing and affiliated with Church and Ministry at the Association level of the UCC.

Consent Agenda:

Because the Pastor’s report was late in arriving to Dropbox, it was removed from the Consent Agenda. Also, Lynn and Leah had questions concerning clarification of some figures on the Treasurer’s report, which were unable to be addressed due to the absence of the Treasurer, it was also removed from the Consent Agenda. The remaining items were accepted as submitted.

Item Removed from Consent Agenda and Item Discussion:

Pastor’s Report:

A copy of the report is attached, which is an update and explanation of her hours worked in the months of April and May.

Note: Pastor Laura asked for a moment of silence for the families in Uvalde, Texas as they try to deal with the senseless killings of 19 students and 2 teachers in a grade school.

Following the pastor’s presentation of this report, Rev. Liz Miller was offered the opportunity to address the Board and answer questions as it relates to the responsibilities and difficulties associated with the position of a bi-vocational or part-time pastor. She also stated that time off and monetary compensation is a normal way for a church to make up for excess hours worked. If the pastor is working too many hours, it may be time to revisit the pastor’s expected responsibilities and perhaps make needed adjustments. One way some churches cut down on the pastor’s time is to officiate weddings and funerals for members only. One of the questions asked was: Why are we paying for time preparing for weddings and funerals when the pastor is being paid by the families for this function? Rev. Miller explained that planning weddings and funerals are never really completely compensated. It is the practice of funeral homes, for instance, to pay a pastor \$150 which amounts to 3 to 4 hours of pay while time spent requires about two days work.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Upon the conclusion of Rev. Miller's discussion, Pastor Laura was asked to be absent while the Board considered possible ways to address compensation for overtime and the avoidance of future overtime issues. The Board is interested in reviewing the expectations from the church's aspect and to help identify which responsibilities are essential as well as expected and those which are not within her job description, such as addressing personnel issues, which falls under the purview of the Personnel Committee. Kim mentioned that she believes such a list had been established by the Search Committee prior to Pastor Laura's appointment. She will try to locate this survey information prior to the next meeting. Karen mentioned that Pastor's call agreement has to be reviewed once a year in July, which is now the perfect time to look at this.

Action and Discussion Items:

Facility Issues:

Ceiling Fan Replacement: Bil Turner contacted the two bidders and learned that the bid from Sparky's Electric increased almost \$700 from their original price of \$4,700 to \$5,375. The second bid from 'RM Electric remained the same at \$4,892. Lynn Hart obtained permission from the families to use Memorial Funds for the replacement of the fans. Between the \$1,000 grant money and the money in Memorial Funds, there is a sufficient amount available for the fans. A request was made by the Choir Director, who stated that the sound quality would be much improved for live streaming, if we had a singers mike and cable hung from the ceiling which could be done at the same time they install the fans. The cost for the mike is \$99 and the cable would be an additional \$50. This would avoid the added expense of renting a lift to install this addition to the sound system at a later time. Leah will ask Brandan to discuss this with the Tech team to make sure all the details are worked out and she will also request Bil to contact the bidders to ask if they would do this and if there is an additional cost. This item is tabled until more information is received.



Bi-Vocational Pastor book Read: The book, "Bi-Vocational - Returning to the Roots of Ministry" by Mark Edington, is scheduled to be reviewed at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Mentoring Program for Hayes 5th-6th Grades Middle School: Pastor Laura reported that the mentors would be role models similar to Big Brothers or Big Sisters one hour per week during the school year. The school would accept any number of mentors - believing three would be great who could offer extra social and emotional support during the school day and after school. Our church would also have to provide a Director who would oversee the program finding and conducting interviews of potential candidate mentors, and training those selected. Mentors are required to fill out forms weekly and the Director would be responsible to collect these forms. It is anticipated that starting up would take the Director about 10 hours a week, but this time would be much less once the program is up and going. The cost to the church is \$500 to start up the program and \$500 per year thereafter. If two churches go together to provide this program, each church would still be responsible for the \$500 per year. It takes 3 months to get started in this program which could start in the fall or even later. It is possible to pay the cost through Outreach which currently has \$1,308 available. Pastor has flyers available describing this program. Leah will call Sandy Sipes with help to draft information for the congregation to be included in the Thursday Pause and the Newsletter.

COVID Status in Eaton County: Leah continues to monitor the statistics in Eaton and surrounding counties which indicate a rise in the number of cases being reported. Presently, Eaton and surrounding counties are in the medium range. In keeping with our policy to follow the CDC guidelines for mask wearing, if the numbers get into the "high" category, we will be compelled to return to the mask mandate.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Follow-up Procedures for Action Items: To help facilitate the follow-up of items discussed at the Board meetings, the Church Clerk, in coordination with the Church Moderator, will prepare a list of the items requiring additional attention at subsequent meetings. As a courtesy, the Clerk will send an e-mail to the responsible member of the date the information is needed.

Bell Choir Director Update: Due to a progressive illness, the Director is unable to return to her position and has resigned. Her formal resignation letter will be forthcoming. As such, the Personnel Committee can begin the search process for a new Director who, hopefully can start in the Fall.

Scheduling Issues: All scheduled meetings, events and other use of the church building needs to be added to the calendar located in the office. Without this information, the custodial staff does not know what is needed to be set up for meetings or additional cleaning, and double scheduling of the facilities creates undue problems.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Monitor for Video Equipment: The monitor, which had been purchased several months ago, was found to be incompatible with the system but, could not be returned to the seller. It was recently sold for the original purchase price and the funds were returned to the church.

Gas Cards: Leah filled out forms with Meijer requesting their donation of 12 or so gas cards to our church. It will take 60 days to evaluate our request. She also looked into Speedway with the same request and learned that they would discount the gas cards if we purchase \$500 worth of cards. Shell may or may not give one or two cards. We will wait to hear from Meijer before purchasing any cards. If we are approved, there would be no cost to the church.

Action and Discussion Item moved to the end of the Board meeting:

Endowment Committee Vacancy: Because of the item to be discussed, Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large, was excused from this portion of the meeting. Due to the vacancy created on the Endowment Committee by the death of Jim Johnson, the Committee has requested approval from the Board to appoint Gary Cypher to replace him. Karen moved to approved Gary Cypher for the position. Kim seconded. Motion passed.

Mark your calendar for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall to review the Bi-vocational Pastor book.

Next Board meeting will be June 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Mary Lou Prevost, Church Clerk

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge
Executive Board Meeting Minutes June 27, 2022

Call to Order:

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

The meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall with 10 members in attendance.

Board Members present were: Charlene Avery, Kim Dible-Glasser, Ron Erskine, Lynn Hart, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Leah Horn, Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Mary Lou Prevost, Kelly Stuible-Clark and Fay Schroeder.

Note: This is the first meeting for Ron Erskine representing the Board of Christian Outreach. It is also noted that they do not have a Chairperson on Christian Outreach at this time.

Also present was Linda Gooley who will provide an update of the Bell Director vacant position and a request from the Personnel Committee.

Excused Members: Gary Cypher and Thea Oatman

Spiritual Reflection:

Leah began with a spiritual reflection from the UCC Daily Devotional of May 22, 2022 based on Proverbs 3:5.

Open Forum: No one was present for this item. However, Fay asked to address a concern as a point of information. She recently observed a number of beer cans in and around the paper gator, which she removed. Secondly, she voiced her objection to people standing up in front of the whole church during service and announce they have a political petition for us to sign. After discussion, it was decided that this will be tabled for more in-depth discussion.

Consent Agenda:

All items were accepted as submitted. It is noted that we have the Treasurer's report from both April and May since there was a correction in the April report. Also, the Pastor's report covers the months of April and May as well.

Leah will see that Ron Erskine's name is added to Dropbox so that he may access the Executive Board's folder.

Action and Discussion Items:

Pastor Laura was unable to physically be at work today as she had to report for jury duty in Circuit Court beginning a one-week commitment. During her wait, she was able to complete 5 hours of church related work. She was not placed on a case, however she must call in each evening to learn if she is required to report the following day or not. Inasmuch as she is being paid by the church, she is required to turn into the church the money she is paid by the County. She is allowed to keep her parking and gas money. Late News: Pastor Laura plans to work her 20-25 hours this week and therefore, will perform jury duty on her own time, meaning she will not be required to turn over her money she is paid by the County for her service as a Juror.

Bell Choir Director and request from Personnel Committee:

Due to health concerns, we have received a resignation from our Bell Choir Director, Darlene Banks. Linda Gooley is here to present a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to fill the vacant position. An offer

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

from Carol Orsborn, who has been functioning as Bell Choir Director for the past two months, filling in for Darlene Banks, has asked to be considered for the position.

Carol asked to let the Board know that she does not have a music degree, but has been involved with many workshops and has been the bell director for Wacousta Methodist Church for about 30 years. Secondly, she has requested not to be paid, stating that she had never accepted payment in this position and considers this to be her gift to God. She will be a good steward and try to use the music available as much as possible, but may need funds for additional music and bell maintenance. Other than a background check there is nothing more to do since she will be considered a volunteer. The music line in the budget and the instrument maintenance is all encompassing for generally all music. If she turns in a request, it would be paid through the budget. Motion made by Lynn, seconded by Fay to accept Carol as a volunteer Bell Choir Director. Motion passed. Linda will take the background form to have her complete and returned to the office.

Facility Issues:

Addition to ceiling fan replacement bid for choir microphone/cable installation:

Bill Turner received an updated bid from RM Electric to include running the cable and the music microphone which added \$438 to the original bid of \$4,892 for a total of \$5,330. Since this is still less than the bid received from Sparky's Electric, Bil recommended that we go with RM. The cost for the cable and microphone is approximately \$150, so we are looking at a total cost of about

\$5,500. Lynn said that memorial funds should be able to cover the fans and the complete installation costs. The cost of the cable and microphone could come from music funds or Building and Grounds budget. Lynn made the motion to accept the purchase and installation of the fans, through RM Electric. Also the separate purchase of the cable and microphone which will be installed by RM Electric. Charlene seconded. Motion passed. Leah will let Bil know to follow through with this and coordinate installation with Brandon Frost who will also need to obtain and have the cable and microphone available. Bil volunteered to be present during the installation.

Issues with Internet During Worship:

There were some very significant issues with the internet this past Sunday as well as during the past month or so. It seems that the problem may be the loss of connection within the church. Kelly mentioned that as she watched it on live stream, it played without interruption. Leah will contact David Gruner to ask if he would check this out and get with David Wee.

Bi-Vocational Pastor book Read and Review of Call Agreement:

We met on Tuesday, June 21 to review the book, "Bi-Vocational - Returning to the Roots of Ministry". There were many interesting thoughts and ideas as a result of this read, which lead us into the discussion of the annual review of the Pastor's call agreement which will be addressed at the July Board meeting. Mary Lou has been gathering information to be looked at by the Board so that we may initially identify those job duties which could be responsible for Pastor Laura exceeding her hours. Lynn and Kim have volunteered to help with the preliminary review of past monthly reports in an attempt to identify these responsibilities and how they may relate to keeping within her 20-25 hour work week. This information will be presented to the Board for more in-depth review before determining which responsibilities are most important and those which are not. The former search committee's survey identifying the characteristics of what the congregation expects in a pastor was distributed to the Board members to review prior to the July meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Review of Procedures for Protestors/Disruptions During Worship:

There was a Webinar reviewing procedures for protestors or disruptions during worship in which Karen had been planning to participate. However, she was unable to do this, but since she had signed up for it, they may quite possibly be sending her a recording of it in the next few days. This item will be tabled until such time as Karen may be able to access this information. This may be helpful to set up a procedure in which we can learn how best to respond in an emergency situation. Kelly will look into by-stander training for ways to defuse a situation such as bullying, etc., which they have used at MSU- Prevention Outreach and Education for groups on campus.

Kids Hope Coordinator and Mentoring Program:

Pastor Laura has asked a couple of people if they would be interested in being the Coordinator for this program, but they said no. Outreach has indicated an interest in moving forward on this program and hold an informational session after worship, which we could do in the Fall, possibly Rally Sunday since it is the beginning of the new school year.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Gas Cards: Leah said that Meijer's turned down our request for 12 gas cards to be passed out for those in need. The store manager would like to give us the money, but prefers to sponsor a program that would impact a larger number of people. Leah talked to Sandy about applying at Meijer's for the needs at Hayes Middle School which she may do. Leah will place a revised request to Meijer with an increased number of gas cards and see how they respond.

New Business:

Outreach Report:

Ron Erskine, a new member of the Outreach Board, is attempting to learn the duties and workings of this Board and which projects fall under their jurisdiction and which are performed by non-members of the Board who work on their own projects. The members currently on this Board beside Ron are Erica Oliver, Charlynn and Karen Walker and Rich Brown. Ron said that the consensus at this past Sunday's meeting was to re-evaluate what projects to do and then try to identify those people in our membership who would be willing to help on these projects.

Pastor Laura asked: Does the Chairperson of a Board have to be the person who always attends the Executive Board meetings or could it be other Board members? Since the main reason is to maintain continuity and open lines of communication between the Boards, it was the consensus of the Executive Board that it did not necessarily have to be the chairman, but simply a member of their respective board. The Constitution requires that Boards meet at least 6 times a year. When asked how to get projects onto Facebook, Kelly said that they could send her the information to be posted and she would take care of it.

Grounds Concerns:

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Kim spoke to the on-going maintenance by volunteers and special projects such as the removal of the dead yew in Fitzgerald Garden and dead memorial tree for Cheryl Mattson's mother which is in front of the church. Cheryl will be contacted to discuss what she wants to do concerning the tree. Lynn said that if Cheryl does not wish to replace it, the church has, in the past, decommissioned memorial items with a special ceremony, usually on All Saints Day. Since we don't wish to have a dead tree in front of the church, it would be removed now and hold a remembrance at a later time. In addition, the pear tree, which has major branches leaning over the Fellowship Hall roof, has to either be severely pruned taking about half of the tree or remove altogether. Kim said that in her opinion, removal would seem to be the best solution. Lynn said there was money set aside in an account designated specifically for the memorial garden which could be used for the removal of the tree. We would need to hire an insured tree removal company to ensure insurance issues and safety measures. The last item is the repair of the area around the sign which includes edging and stonework clean-up, and grading and seeding of the lawn area. There is money in the Buildings and Grounds fund and since it is maintenance of the church it could also be covered through the maintenance line item. Kim will get estimates for these items which are in need of attention.

The next Board meeting will be July 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Mary Lou Prevost, Church Clerk

Ways to Keep In Touch with the Church!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uccgrandledge>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcmU3DDWy-JbJ04TgJLtgWg>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/grandledgeucc/>
<https://grandledgeucc.org/>

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	4	5	6 10am AA Women
7 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	8 6:30PM Grand Ringers Prac- tice	9	10 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	11	12	13 10am AA Women
14 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Wor- ship Service	15 6:30PM Grand Ringers Prac- tice	16	17 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	18	19	20 10am AA Women
21 10:30am In-Person and Facebk Worship Service	22	23 6:30pm Execu- tive Board Meet- ing	24 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon	25	26	27 10am AA Women
28 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service 11:45 AM Youth Event K-12	29	30	31 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA			

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28	
THEME	The Barren Fig	The Great Banquet	The Prodigal Son	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	
TEXT	Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:6-9	Isaiah 5:1-7 Luke 14:12-24	Psalms 103:1-8 Luke 15:11-32	Isaiah 57: 14-19 Luke 18:9-14	
HEAD USHER	Kim Dible	Cheryl Mattson	Fay Schroeder	Chris Cypher	
GREETER	Connie Dible	Karen Walker	Rich Brown	Gary Cypher	
LITURGIST	Ron Erskine	Lisa Reed	Freida Schneeberger	Anita Calcagno	
SOUNDBOARD	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	
HYMN SINGER	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir	



August BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Bernardi	1st	Sue Ann Cole	25th
Kay Turner	2nd	Connie Dible	29th
Tim Lipsey	9th	Pat Reed	29th
Reg Calcagno	11th		
Stacy Sipes	12th		
Hildegard Oatman	13th		
Joy Leonard	14th		
Freida Schneeberger	19th		



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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	<p style="text-align: center;">STAFF</p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS</p> <p>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</p>
Summer Youth Events Share Your Story WGOD Thoughts and Prayers	3	
Youth Calendar	4	
Congregators Meetings with Pastor Laura INCOME & EXPENSE	5	
Sunday Worship and Prayer Invitation	6	
Board Minutes May 24, 2022	7-9	
Board Minutes June 27, 2022	10-13	
Calendar	15	
Sunday Schedule Birthdays	15	