



THE CHURCH WINDOW

August 2023



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Beloved Ones,

As you know, I was a delegate to Synod in July. Synod is the national conference of the United Church of Christ which had been meeting every two years (and now every three). One of the main roles of delegates at Synod is to discuss and vote on resolutions. Most of these are resolutions of witness, meaning that we, as a church, recognize an injustice or problem in our world. We name it and then resolve to do something about it. We then meet later to discuss how the national church can help local churches achieve whatever we resolved to do. This year, we passed 14 resolutions and 1 statement of witness in response to the Supreme Court Ruling against Affirmative Action. The resolutions are important and impactful. They often direct our national offices to empower our lobbyists in Washington, they open the door for national funding to be used to support the resolutions, and they give all churches in the UCC direction and resources. In some cases, they even impact the benefits plans of UCC staff and pastors.

Importantly, these resolutions are all grounded in our faith and theology. They were created, supported, and passed by the UCC because we want so strongly to do what Jesus has called us to do. That is why so many of them seem to have what we might call a political impact. As Christians, we recognize that Jesus has something to say about all aspects of our lives. He did not hesitate to make what was considered political statements in his time, speaking out against any powerful or wealthy individuals who abused their power, instructing the people to stop marginalizing others, and inviting sinners to become his followers. We also recognize that one of the main ways that we can help to make the world a better place for all of our siblings is by helping to shape public policy, by voting for people who will support all of our siblings, and by speaking publicly about our beliefs. Our voice is particularly important in this time, because the voice of extreme and conservative Christians is so very loud and, in some places, very powerful. And they are quite willing to use the political process to further their own agendas. So our voice, the voice of love, inclusion, extravagant welcome, responsibility, and hope is desperately needed right now.

I would invite you, then, to read over the resolutions and then talk to each other and to me about them. You can find the resolutions here: <https://www.ucc.org/general-synod-34-highlights/> They are still in their edited form. Words with lines through them were removed, and words that are underlined were added. I would love to hear from you about them. What do you think of them? Do you have questions about any of them or do they cause you wonder about God, scripture, or what we are called to do in the world? Do they bring up any questions for you about the UCC? Do any of these resolutions particularly speak to you? Are there any that you would like to act on? If so, what might be a good first step? As we are continuing to discern our role as a bi-vocational church in this particular time and space, wondering how we fit into the larger mission of the UCC is an important question. So I wish you good reading and good wondering!

Blessings, Pastor Laura

Date	Greeter	Head Usher	Liturgist	Fresh Perspectives	Homily	Soundboard
9/3	Lynn Hart	Susan Elbin	Greg Elbin	Pastor Laura	Pastor Laura	
9/10	Sandy Sipes	Chris Cypher	Marcia Kent	Demphna Krikorian	Pastor Laura	
9/17	Charlene	Tina Lamer	Rich Brown	Demphna Krikorian	Pastor Laura	
9/24	Chuck Byam	Cheryl	Leah Horn		Karen Holcomb-	
10/1	Connie Dible	Kim Dible	Vickie Koroch	Pastor Laura	Pastor Laura	
10/8	Gary Burt	Kathy Burt	Lisa Reed	Demphna Krikorian	Pastor Laura	
10/22	Bil Turner	Fay Schroeder	Sue Sackett	Demphna Krikorian	Pastor Laura	
10/29	Kelly and Nora	Susan Elbin	Bil Turner	Brenda Foltz	Brenda Foltz	

Prayers, Cards, and Support

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.

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 on our prayer list: Darlene B, Ben B, Phillip C, Caiyea C, Sue C., Becky R., Gerry A. . *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.*

🎵 🎵 **“TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME”**

NEWS BULLETIN: Six people who planned on going to the Saturday, August 19, Lansing Lugnuts game are unable to attend. They would like to give their tickets to someone as the tickets are nonrefundable. Please talk to your friends and family soon...let me know if someone can use one or more of the free tickets!
 ...Charlene Avery 517.281.5019.

CONGREGATORS

Our Congregators have decided to take the summer off and will look forward to meeting again the first Tuesday in September! ... Charlene (517.281.5019) and Sandy (517.420.2121)

COMMUNITY MEAL THANK YOU!

There will not be another community meal until Wednesday, September 6...but in the meantime, we want to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Lon and Sheila Wilkinson** for helping set up the day before many meals, and to **Gary and Kathy Burt** for faithfully volunteering to serve and clean up. Another to **Gary Cypher** for his serving help when I asked him at the last minute...to **Kim Dible** for helping prepare a meal early on when we were all finding our way around an unfamiliar kitchen, where certain pots and utensils were, how to keep things up to Health Department standards. We partnered with Trinity Episcopal Church to cook one meal and are scheduled to do another in November. We will be gently nudging some of you to volunteer once meals get rolling again in September. We'd really like FCUCC and TEP to cook at least three meals next calendar year. So, rest up your cooking skills, you may be hearing from one of us in the fall ☐

Charlene and Sandy

Income and Expense Report

	Actual June, 2023	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
INCOME	\$ 18,560.16	\$ 79,081.79	\$ 65,018.00	\$130,036.00
EXPENSES	<u>13,791.04</u>	<u>81,212.75</u>	<u>80,616.50</u>	<u>162,783.00</u>
BALANCE	\$ 4,769.15	(\$ 2,130.96)	(\$15,598.50)	(\$ 32,747.00)

Even though our income has surpassed the proposed budget, our expenses have also. During the warmer months, the expenses decrease which allows the deficit to also decrease. Continued support through your generous donations will build our income to meet the expenses throughout the year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge
Executive Board Meeting Minutes June 25, 2023

Call to Order

Moderator Leah Horn called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Board Members present: Charlene Avery, Gary Cypher, Kim Dible-Glasser, Lynn Hart, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Leah Horn, Thea Oatman, Fay Schroeder, and Bil Turner

Spiritual Reflection

Leah read a message from the UCC Daily Devotional regarding Chapter 12 of 1st Corinthians, offered her thoughts and a prayer.

Open Forum

No one was present for this item.

Consent Agenda

There are no Board Reports and no Pastor's Report. With those exceptions, the Consent Agenda was accepted.

Action and Discussion Items

Email Votes

- The Board voted yes on proceeding with the kitchen work, and accepting the donation that has been offered
- The Board voted yes on overtime pay for child care on 6/25.

Kitchen Repair/Upgrade Announcement

Leah discussed small changes that have been made to the announcement language. The announcement will be made soon.

Planning/Payment for Bystander Training.

The training will be on September 5th. Leah and/or Kelly will get that information out.

Back Up of Key Documents.

Our current practice includes sending Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Clerk reports to Dropbox. Perhaps Memorial Committee and Endowment Committee documents should also be stored at Dropbox.

Misc. Updates

Personnel Committee. One more member is still needed.

Lugnuts Outing. Charlene told the Board that 21 people have signed up for the event.

CPR/First Aid Training/AED Purchase. Leah explained that nine people went through the training and that during the training the church was encouraged to buy an Automated External Defibrillator. The cost is approximately \$1500. Grant funds may be available.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Sabbatical in 2024. No activity yet on this topic.

Church Roles and Ministries. This group has not reconvened yet.

Emergency Plan. The language is undergoing some minor revisions

New Business

Pride Banners

Gary suggested that the banners remain on display, since they are so emblematic of our position on LGBTQ+ issues. There was no objection.

Older Folding Chairs.

Gary explained that the storage room has many older folding chairs that are not in good condition. Perhaps they could be disposed of. There may be more in the garage. Various disposal options were discussed. Leah will talk about the chairs with Sue Sackett. Item tabled.

Striping the Parking Lot.

Lynn told the Board that Jim Hart has offered to repaint the lines on the parking lot for the cost of the paint. He will also spray the weeds in the parking lot. The cost will be about \$300. It was moved by Fay, seconded by Bil to accept this generous offer. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, July 25th, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bil Turner, Church Clerk

Ways to Keep In Touch with the Church!

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

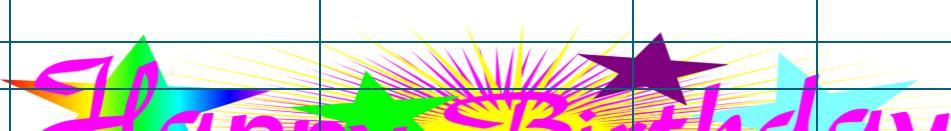
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcmU3DDWy-JbJ04TgjLtgWg>

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

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 10am AA Women
6 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	7	8	9 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA Community Meal 5:30pm Grand Ledge Methodist	10 8pm AA	11	12 10am AA Women
13 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	14	15	16 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA Rest in the rush 5-7pm	17 8pm AA	18	19 10am AA Women
20 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	21	22 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	23 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	24 8pm AA	25	26 10am AA Women
27 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	28	29	30	31 8pm AA		
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 20	Aug. 27	
THEME	Synod Resolutions: Building Communities of Compassionate Care/Caring for Others--note to PL: Harm Reduction, Dobbs, solitary confinement; Guns to Gardens, maybe tech	Synod Resolution: Creation Justice	Jesus is My Friend	But Who Are We Really?	
TEXT	Proverbs 31:9 AND Proverbs 29:7 NT: Romans 13: 8-10; Gospel: John 13:34	Psalm 24:1 AND Isaiah 24:3-6	Genesis 45:1-15 Matthew 15:21-28	Exodus 1:3 - 2:10 Matthew 16:13 - 20	
HEAD USHER	Lisa Reed	Kim Dible	Nate Oliver	Cheryl Mattson	
GREETER	Sandy Sipes	Connie Dible	Erica Oliver	Cheryl Mattson	
LITURGIST	Marcia Kent	Vickie Korroch	Ron Erskine	Sue Sackett	
SOUNDBOARD	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee
					

August BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Bernardi	1st
Kay Turner	2nd
Tim Lipsey	9th
Reg Calcagno	11th
Stacy Sipes	12th
Hildegard Oatman	13th
Joy Leonard	14th
Patty Curtis	20th



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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	<p style="text-align: center;">STAFF</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage Larry Patterson Office Administrator Brandon Frost, Choir Director Carol Orsborn, Bell Choir Director Dr. James Sullivan, Organist & Accompanist Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator Ben Sackett, Custodian Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & BOARD CHAIRS</p> <p>Leah Horn, Moderator Thea Oatman, Vice Moderator Bil Turner, Clerk Fay Schroeder, Treasurer Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large Kelly Stuble-Clark, Christian Education Kim Dible, Congregational Life Ron Erskine, Outreach Board</p>
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