



# THE CHURCH WINDOW

*January*  
*2023*



*Happy new year*

*From*  
*Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage*  
*And*  
*The Executive Board*

## VOLUNTEERS

With the coming of the new year, we are again looking for volunteers willing to speak on the last Sunday of each month. Many of you have shared your stories of faith or thoughts on topics of personal interest. Please consider the following dates for this year. Contact Kim Dible or Pastor Laura to sign up or concerning any questions you may have.

January 22	June 25	October 22
March 26	July 23	November 26
April 23	August 27	December 24
May 28	September 24	

## ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to attend our Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023, following worship. More details will follow, but this meeting is where we, as a congregation, approve all the officer and board reports for the year, vote on an operating budget for the upcoming year, remember those members and friends we have lost during the year, and conduct any other necessary business. It is a wonderful way to connect with others in the congregation and learn more about how our church operates.

## 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.



## CONGREGATORS

A smaller group than usual met for our December luncheon, but small is still wonderful. Joan brought a picture of Congregators taken many years ago at the home of Dan and Jan Hendrickson. We loved looking at the group of so many people we have loved back when they were younger than most of us now! We're taking a break for the winter and will plan to gather again in March, weather permitting. We will be in touch. . .until then have a Merry and Blessed Christmas! We love you all!

Charlene (517.281.5019) or Sandy (517.420.2121)

## WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS

**Women Gathering Over Devotions (W GOD) will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a brown bag lunch on January 16, 2023. We are continuing the series of books by Will Holcomb and discussed the book, 'The Infinite Jeff, Part 2' . We will be discussing Chapters 17 34 through the end of the book.**

## SISTERS OF RUTH

Sisters of Ruth held their holiday luncheon at the House of Hsu on December 12, 2022. Our next meeting will be on January 9 at 12:30 for lunch at the Cancun Restaurant.

## Income and Expense Report

	Actual November 2022	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
INCOME	\$ 12,528.94	\$146,792.56	\$120,886.33	\$131,876.00
EXPENSES	<u>13,403.95</u>	<u>136,953.41</u>	<u>138,257.17</u>	<u>152,326.00</u>
BALANCE	(\$ 875.01)	\$ 9,839.15	(\$ 17,370.17)	(\$ 20,450.00)

As the new year begins, we will start fresh with a new proposed budget. With God's help and this congregations continued support our church will continue to grow and prosper. We will be able to continue our support to the Grand Ledge community, our state, and our nation.

## 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/>

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge**  
**Executive Board Meeting Minutes     November 15, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Moderator, Leah Horn, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Spiritual Reflection:** Leah began the meeting with prayer.

**Open Forum:** No one was present.



**Consent Agenda:** No board reports were submitted. Leah brought up the concern that the Treasurer's report shows that the budget for office equipment and repairs is quite a bit over the budget. As of the end of October, we have spent \$3,798 and our budget for the year is \$3,250. The problem is directly related to the color copies we are running. Whenever the weekly bulletin is run, because of the blue portion of the cover page, it charges the entire bulletin to the color cost of the printing. We are running over what we are allotted for color copies, thus the cost for color copies has increased. Leah proposed that, with the exception of special printing for things like bulletins for funeral services, etc., we run everything else in black and white. Pastor Laura will let Larry know what is to run in color. Motion made by Ron to go with the plan to run black and white copies only. Fay seconded. Motion passed.

Lynn stated that there were 34 pledges collected on Sunday for a total of \$93,050. Also, the church received a \$172 Lowe's gift card, which we received from Jim Johnson's niece which she found in his records. She sent it to the church for our use. It could be used for supplies and/or landscape items needed in the spring.

Pastor Laura's report was not printable to everyone, so she will put her report in dropbox as a PDF so it is accessible for printing. All reports in the consent agenda were accepted.

**Action and Discussion Items:** Personnel Discussion - Job Descriptions: We had an in depth discussion of what elements should and shouldn't be contained in a job description. Also discussed was how much paid vacation is allowed to part-time employees and how this is calculated. After considering all information presented, Pastor Laura will prepare a draft position description for the Board to consider. Also discussed were personnel issues which need to be addressed, such as: staff working from home, unpaid holidays, considera-

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

tion for a general sick leave policy which we do not currently have, re-examine leave time off including paid leave, vs. unpaid leave, and being clear that staff cannot have unlimited time off. It was decided that these are all issues which a small group could initially address and bring back recommendations to the Board. This group, comprised of Pastor Laura, Fay and Thea, will meet and report their findings at the January Board meeting. It is noted that the Office Administrator, who has one week of vacation this year, will be gone from 12-12 through 12-25-22. Volunteers will be filling in during this time.

Tabled until January meeting. Accessibility Materials: Kelly has put a presentation together to look at our church for accessibility and no barriers for physical/mental disabilities. She will send the social narrative to the Board in the form of an e-mail for the Board's consideration. Divesting from Fossil Fuel Supporting Financial Banks as a Church: We briefly discussed this and learned that the church uses 5th/3rd Bank which is not a problem. This may be a subject for Outreach Board. Tabled. Re-Keying the Church: Leah has identified through the key log, 6 or 7 keys which are to be turned into the office. It does not appear that we need to re-key the church at this time.

Possible Earlier Worship for Summer Months:

Reimbursement for Artwork Materials: Lynn made the motion to pay Gary and Chris Cypher for the artwork materials used for the tree wall display which was dedicated this past Sunday. Lynn made the motion to pay Gary and Chris \$197.46 through the Executive Board Capital Improvement Endowment funds. Seconded by Ron. Motion carried.

### **Miscellaneous Updates:**

- Ceiling Fan Installation
- Internet Issues Update
- Emergency Procedures Update
- Email Vote on Staff Bonuses

Because of the length of the meeting, these items were not addressed. Leah will send out an e-mail concerning the miscellaneous updates along with the item for Possible Earlier Worship for Summer Months.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Mary Lou Prevost, Church Clerk

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Office closed for the New Year holiday	3	4	5	6	7 10am AA Women
8 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service The Sunday After Christmas Day	9 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice Sisters of Ruth, 12:30pm - Cancun	10 Congregators meetings, 1pm at Sophias	11 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA Rest in the rush 5-7pm	12 6pm Chancel Choir Practice	13	14 10am AA Women
15 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service The Baptism of Christ	16 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice WGOD-noon Fellowship Hall	17	18 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA Rest in the rush 5-7pm	19 6pm Chancel Choir Practice	20	21 10am AA Women
22 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Second Sunday after Epiphany	23 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice	24 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	25 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	26	27	28 10am AA Women
29 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Third Sunday after Epiphany	30 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice	31			3	

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
THEME	A Time for Everything	Epiphany	Calling into Community	Togetherness	Beatitudes
TEXT	Ecclesiastics 3:1-13 Revelation 2:1-6a	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Psalms 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Micah 6:1-8 Matthew 5:1-12
HEAD USHER		Kathy Burt	Cheryl Mattson	Kim Dible	Chris Cypher
GREETER		Mason and Jackson Lipsey	Gla Spayde	Connie Dible	Charlene Avery
LITURGIST	Anita Calcagno	Tamera Lipsey	Rich Brown	Ron Erskine	Marcia Kent
SOUNDBOARD	Charlynn Walker	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Schneeberger	4th	Kelly Stuible-Clark	17th
Kathy Burt	7th	Fay Schroeder	21st
Matt Cypher	9th	Mae Clark	21st
Ben Walther	10th	Robin Horn	22nd
Dashal Jason Gooley	10th	Quinn McWilliams	28th
Leah Horn	13th	Sheila Wilkinson	31st
Tony Bray	16th		



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<b>First Congregational UCC Mission Statement</b>		
<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>		
<b>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</b>	1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage            Larry Patterson Office Administrator            Brandon Frost, Choir Director            Carol Orsborn, Bell Choir Director            Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator            Ben Sackett, Custodian            Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></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>
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