



THE CHURCH WINDOW

July 2022



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

As you know, I love stories, and the summer seems like a time to tell them. It's what we do when we sit around the campfire at night, or on the deck or patio, or at the park or on the beach. For me, the best stories always have a meaning or multiple meanings. That's one of the reasons why I like Jesus' parables so much. They are rich and complicated. Just when you think you've figured them out, you realize there is another layer of meaning that you missed or that there was something about the culture at the time that changes your understanding of them. So, this summer, from the week after the fourth of July through Labor Day, my sermons will be focused on several of the parables from the Gospel of Luke. You are invited to read them ahead of time and ponder them. See what meaning you might find in them on your own and then compare it to the sermons. Talk with each other about them or with me during summer office hours. Let see how the Bible's stories can enrich our understanding of our calling. The schedule is as follows:

7/10/22	Gospel: Luke 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan
7/17/22	Luke 11:5-13	The Friend at Midnight
7/24/22	Luke 12:13-21	The Rich Fool
7/31/22	Guest Preacher (But they could do Luke 14:7-14)	The Invited Guest
8/7/22	Luke 13:6-9	The Barren Fig Tree
8/14/22	Luke 14:15-24	The Great Banquet
8/21/22	Luke 15:11-32	The Prodigal Son
8/28/22	Guest Preacher (But they could do Luke 18:9-14)	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
9/4/22	Luke 16:1-13 (I'm using The Message version)	The Shrewd Manager

I look forward to studying with you all this summer!

Blessings,
Pastor Laura

Grand Ledge Food Bank

We have collected 187 items for the Grand Ledge Food Bank!!!!

Summer Youth Events

The Board of Christian Education is scheduling three 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, July 10, and 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:

June 26
July 31
August 28
September 25
October 30
November 27

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/>

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	\$15,184.37	\$ 63,981.19	\$ 54,948.33	\$131,876.00
EXPENSES	<u>13,614.43</u>	<u>64,719.16</u>	<u>62,844.17</u>	<u>152,326.00</u>
BALANCE	\$ 1,569.94	(\$ 737.91)	(\$ 7,895.83)	(\$ 20,450.00)

We were blessed this month by people giving their entire annual pledge now. Therefore, as the year progresses, we may see higher deficits each month. This congregation can survive these difficult times. GOD IS STILL SPEAKING and with prayerful consideration, please consider giving a little bit more each month because your continued support is very important for the sustainability of our church.

Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery

RECYCLE-PALOOZA

AUGUST 13, 2022 9 am - 1 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, LARGE APPLIANCES, 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****

TIRES: Passenger tires only, with or without rims. We are unable to accept any tire over 24 inches.

****LIMIT OF 10 TIRES PER VEHICLE****

*****Funding for Scrap Tire Collection was made possible through a State of Michigan EGLE Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant*****

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 August 10, 2022 at 12 pm.
3. **Electronics: NO refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, large appliances, 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. Tires: **Limit of 10 tires per vehicle.** We are unable to accept any tire over 24 inches.
6. **YOU MUST REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE** for the duration of the event. Workers will retrieve your recyclables for you.



For questions, cancellation 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 April 26, 2022

Call to Order:

Moderator Leah Horn called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

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

Excused Members: Kim Dible-Glasser and Thea Oatman

Spiritual Reflection:

Pastor Laura began with prayer.

Open Forum:

No one was present for this item.

Consent Agenda:

With the exception of the Pastor's report, all items were accepted as submitted without further discussion, including the Executive Board special meeting of April 4, 2022.

Item Removed from Consent Agenda and Item Discussion:

Pastor's Report:

Due to the extremely busy month, there wasn't time for Pastor Laura to prepare a detailed account of the month's activities. A brief summary includes preparing and conducting five worship services during Holy Week; and three services this past week. She officiated at Jim Johnson's funeral which was held in Marion, Michigan, near Cadillac, on April 25, 2022.

Unfortunately, the funeral home lost their internet connection and was unable to utilize the planned Zoom connection. However, it was recorded on their I-Pad which Pastor Laura will have available for our church family to view soon. There is a memorial service and luncheon to be held at our church at Noon on Monday, May 16, 2022. Additionally, there were the Wider Ministerial meetings with a vigil focused on Ukraine. There is a baptism of Baby Lucy on Saturday, April 30 which will be videoed and viewed on Sunday for the congregation.

Because of the demands during the month of April, Pastor Laura exceeded her number of contractual 20-25 working hours per week, resulting in a total of 39 hours over and above her normal schedule. In order to compensate her for this, Karen made the motion to allow her to take

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

comp leave from May 2 through May 8, using 24 of the 39 hours. This would leave 15 hours for which the Board would authorize additional payment to compensate her at her current rate of pay. Gary seconded this motion. Motion carried with two abstaining.

Action and Discussion Items:

Facility Issues:

Repair to Road Sign Update: The repair is underway which will run larger conduit than currently needed to allow for additional future wiring if necessary. The repair will also include relocating and replacing the timer which is not working. It was decided it was more cost effective to cut the pavement to accommodate the conduit than to risk uncertainties and cost of running it under the pavement. It is anticipated that the job will be completed by next week for a cost of approximately \$5,000. Motion made by Lynn to pay the cost through the proceeds from the Executive Board's Endowment Fund, the UCF Haueter Endowment Fund and the Restricted Building and Property Improvement Fund. Seconded by Kelly. Motion carried.

Ceiling Fan Replacement: Since the price quote for replacing the fans was early last fall, Bil Turner has volunteered to check with the bidders to learn if their bids are still viable. Lynn Hart will contact families about the possible use of Memorial Funds for this purchase. This item is tabled until updated information is received.

Pest Control Update: An e-mail vote from the Board Members resulted in accepting the option for service every other month and prepay for a 5% discount which amounts to a cost of \$478.80 per year.



Bi-Vocational Pastor book Read

The book, "Bi-Vocational - Returning to the Roots of Ministry" by Mark Edington, has been pushed back to the May meeting to discuss a date to meet for discussion.

4th Sunday Homilies:

It has been suggested that instead of securing someone to deliver the message for the 4th Sunday of the month, we invite people to share their statement of personal faith journey, or speak as a family, or present their story in the form of a play, etc.

Leah will prepare a draft of an invitation to the congregation to be reviewed by the Board members.

Purchase of Gas Cards

The draft of the Procedures for Provision of Gas Cards was reviewed with the following modifications: To the first line, add: \$300 per year to be charged to the Outreach Budget. Strike the word "wall" in the second paragraph. Motion by Karen and seconded by Charlene to accept the proposed procedures, with changes, be adopted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Motion carried.

New Business:

Mentoring Program for Hayes Middle School: The school has asked if there are any individuals in our church who may be interested in serving as a mentor to the 5th-6th grade students who do not qualify for the mentor program provided to children in the younger grades. As a result of our discussion, Pastor Laura will obtain more information about the program before presenting it to the congregation.

Accessible Services

In order to make our church more welcoming to individuals with sensory issues, Kelly has offered training services to the congregation to be scheduled later this year.

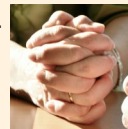
Next meeting will be May 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Mary Lou Prevost, Church Clerk

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.*

July 2022

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
THEME	For the Good of All	The Good Samaritan	The Friend at Midnight	The Rich Fool	The Invited Guest
TEXT	Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:1-16	Psalm 25:1-10 Luke 10:25-37	Genesis 18:20-32 Luke 11:5-13	Proverbs 3:5-10 and 27-28 Luke 12:13-21	Luke 14:7-14
HEAD USHER	Marylou Prevost	Chris Cypher	Freida Schneeberger	Leah Horn	Lisa Reed
GREETER	Ben Banks	Gary Cypher	Charlene Avery	Sandy Sipes	Pat Reed
LITURGIST	Freida Schneeberger	Marylou Prevost	Marcia Kent	Rich Brown	Sue Sackett
SOUNDBOARD	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee
HYMN SINGER	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir



July BIRTHDAYS

Chris Cypher	2nd	Janet Harmon	20th
Tom Bernardi	5th	Becky Ramos	23rd
Tina Lamer	5th	Reshay Tanasse	24th
Karen Ramthun	7th	Molly Coombes	24th
Anita Calcagno	10th	Joe Gilson	26th
Elva Maguire	10th	Bob Sackett	27th
Katie Miller-Purrenhage	12th	Jane Cospers	30th
Patty Curtis	20th		

Let
your
light
shine





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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 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>
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		<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>