



# THE CHURCH WINDOW

*June 2022*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

It feels like every time I sit down to write a newsletter article, I need to start it by naming the many difficult and horrible things that are happening in the country and in the world. As I write today, for example, we are still reeling from the mass shootings in Buffalo and in Uvalde. I have heard from many of you that all of the bad news is causing exhaustion, a sense of helplessness, and even despair. It causes me to think of the lyrics of the hymn, "Precious Lord":

"Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand. I am weak, I am tired, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, Precious Lord, lead me home."

We are in the midst of a storm, Dear Ones, and it makes us tired and worn. But as the book of Job teaches us, that's exactly where we find God—in the midst of the whirlwind. And that is what I am finding and seeing, that God is here with us and explicitly working through you. Let me tell you what I am seeing: Although tired and worn, many of you are doubling down on your volunteer work and/or financial contributions, putting more time into the Food bank, Hayes Intermediate School, and Siren Shelter. Although tired and worn, many of you are still working hard to care for loved ones and doing the hard work of self-care. Although tired and worn, you are working hard for our church, pouring your love into music and tech for special church services, into work for our executive board, into new and exciting opportunities for Christian education and fellowship, into coordinating volunteers, and into fulfilling roles needed for worship so that we can all be spiritually fed each Sunday. Many of you also work in service fields, advocating for social justice, providing spiritual care or mental health care, providing resources for the at-risk, underhoused, and underfed, providing music and art to help the community get through this difficult time, supporting and caring for our environment which so desperately needs our care right now, and generally doing the good and important work that communities and governments need for us to thrive. You may be tired and worn, but you are still pouring your heart and soul into living out your faith.

You have not given up, Dear Ones, and your work is helping to keep this community and this church together. So I encourage you to lean into this knowledge of yourselves and to trust that God will continue to work with, for, and through you. And in those moments where you start to feel the most tired and worn, remember the words of Jesus from Matthew 6: 25 & 33: Therefore, do not worry about your life...but seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and everything will be given to you. Amen.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday school has resumed! It's a lot of fun. But more importantly it is an opportunity for our young ones to learn about Christianity and how we are called to help others. This month we will learn about character development like being honest and sharing with others. We also have fun crafts with a chance to paint, glue, color and make original creations for your refrigerators! The first Sunday of the month, children stay in the church. But all the other weeks, we have Sunday school immediately after Fresh Perspectives.

### **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, June 12, 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 [kstuiibs@gmail.com](mailto:kstuiibs@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

### **CHURCH INSTAGRAM**

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

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

At this writing, we look around and are surrounded by beautiful blooms everywhere...crab trees, lilacs, tulips, lilies of the valley, and many more; gardens are being planted; morel mushrooms, rhubarb and asparagus are being harvested. We will soon transition to the summer month of June with all the later flowers and perhaps pick the first lettuce. Congregators will meet for lunch at Sophia's, Tuesday, June 7 at 1 pm. We will still be missing Jim's quiet presence, of course, but will share stories about the wonderful service to celebrate his life that was held on May 16. All are welcome, just contact one of us to let us know you'd like to join the group! **Charlene (517.281.5019) or Sandy (517.420.2121)**

## SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

We met in the Fellowship Hall on May 9, 2022 to assemble the personal care kits with the donations of shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels, washcloths, and all other donations for the S.I.R.E.N. Shelter. With the generous donations of this great congregation, we were able to put together 50 complete personal care kits (which included 8 for men). They were delivered to the S.I.R.E.N. Shelter the next day.

After the packets were completed and packed in the car, we all enjoyed lunch at A & W for our last luncheon of the 2021-22 program year. Our next meeting will be in September. So look for more information in future newsletters.

## Volunteers Needed

With Summer comes vacations and weekend trips up north. As our worship continues, we are in need of volunteers to help as Greeters, Ushers, and Liturgists. If you are planning on being in town over the July 4th weekend, we could use your help. Please contact the office, or Kim Dible if you are able to help!

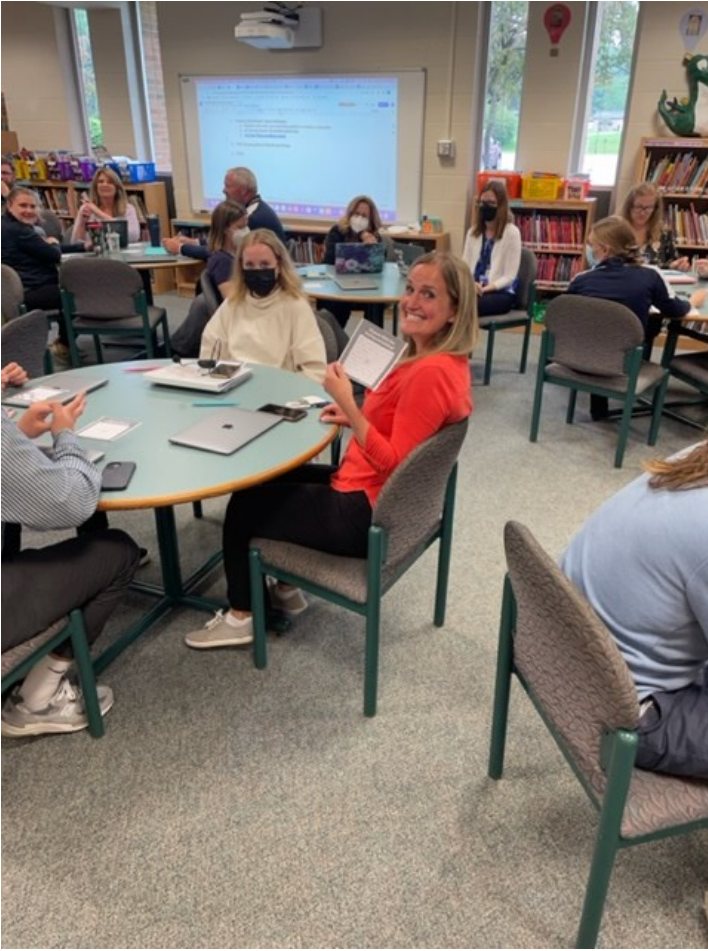
# Income and Expense Report

## Income and Expense Report

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Annual
	April 2022	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
INCOME	\$11,183.28	\$ 48,796.82	\$ 43,958.67	\$131,876.00
EXPENSES	<u>12,123.52</u>	<u>51,119.73</u>	<u>50,275.33</u>	<u>152,326.00</u>
BALANCE	(\$ 940.24)	(\$ 2,322.91)	(\$ 6,316.67)	(\$ 20,450.00)

We are showing a larger deficit each month. During the warmer months, the utility expenses will be less but there are repairs that need to be done, the sign and the fans in the sanctuary. Even though we are living with higher expenses, GOD IS STILL SPEAKING and with prayerful consideration, you can consider giving a little bit more each month because your continued support is very important for the sustainability of our church.

## Bingo Night



## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes      February 22, 2022**

### **Call to Order:**

Moderator Leah Horn called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The meeting was held in person in the Fellowship Hall in compliance with current masking and social distancing protocol.

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

Excused Member: Thea Oatman

### **Spiritual Reflection:**

Pastor Laura read a reflection by the Rev. Lillian Daniels which centered on blessing our jobs and everyone who works together.

### **Open Forum:**

Present were Chuck Byam to discuss masking in the church for the congregation, speakers and singers; placing Bibles and hymnals back into the pews and live music.

Also present was Linda Gooley who was there to represent David Wee, Video Technician, who has requested a monitor for the video cameras. Note: This subject was discussed prior to the meeting and it was learned that a monitor was purchased with the original video system, but was not able to be successfully installed. Chuck Byam, part of the Tech Team, will look into this, so no discussion was warranted during the Board meeting.

### **Consent Agenda:**

All items were accepted as submitted without further discussion.

### **Action and Discussion Items:**

Update to Covid-19 Prevention Program:

At the Board's February 22, 2022 meeting, a motion was passed to adapt the recommended guidelines for mask wearing from the CDC as changes occur. Because of differing recommendations from the CDC and our State's recommendation based on local Covid numbers, Fay suggested that we add the local State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to our guidelines. Motion made by Gary Cypher and seconded by Fay Schroeder to adapt the recommended guidelines from the CDC, the BEHD (Barry-Eaton Health Department) and the local State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as changes occur. Motion carried.

### **Updating Mask Requirements /Return to in-person Choir and/or congregational singing during worship:**

After an in-depth discussion of the continuation of wearing masks in church, it was decided that Pas-

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

tor Laura will send an e-mail to the congregation to learn how everyone feels about wearing masks in church. The goal is to learn their wishes prior to the Easter service in the event the mask requirements could be lifted by that time.

To the best of everyone's knowledge, the CDC mask guidelines for singing have not changed, but the thought is that it may be coming soon. In-service choir and congregational singing was discussed without a definitive conclusion.

### **Food Bank Collections on Communion Sundays:**

The Food Bank is currently accepting food donations and is no longer wiping down the products with disinfectants. Motion made by Kelly Stuible-Clark and seconded by Charlene Avery to resume Food Bank Collections effective for the next communion service on April 3, 2022. Motion carried.

It was also determined that the Bibles, hymnals, afghans and children's kits will be returned to the Sanctuary.

### **Facility Issues:**

Repair to Road Sign Update: Leah's husband inspected the sign issue and found that there was no power between the building and the sign. It appears there is a break in the wiring which trips the breaker. This requires the digging up of the conduit. As of this time, there is no price available for the repair.

Increase in Exterminator Rates: Rose Pest Control has raised our rates from \$37 to \$56 a month - an increase from \$444 to \$672 a year. It takes 7 minutes for them to look at 5 traps - 3 rodent glue traps, 2 insect glue traps. However, they also spray in the warmer months for our problem with ant infestation. An every other month service could cost \$545 a year. This item is tabled until we hear back from them with more information.

Gas Card Procedures: Pastor Laura has gas cards in her office with unknown amounts which she inherited from our prior pastor. Reimbursement for money spent for the purchase of a gas card last month came from the Pastor's discretionary fund. Leah will prepare a draft policy and e-mail it to everyone for input.

Bi-Vocational Pastor book Recommendation: Pastor Laura suggested that we purchase the book "Bi-Vocational - Returning to the Roots of Ministry" by Mark Edington. Leah will look into purchasing these for Board members for a separate discussion, possibly between the April and May meetings.

### **New Business:**

Sound Board Coordinator: May Clark has resigned from the position of Sound Board Coordinator and has made the recommendation that this be made a paid position. There are currently three people who operate the sound board and individuals on the Tech Team are being trained. The Sound Technician would work 2 hours per Sunday and be paid \$20 per hour at a cost of \$2,080 per year. The concern is the budget which is currently operating at a \$20,000 deficit. Leah will ask if anyone is interested in volunteering for the position.

On-Line Sound Concern: Gary mentioned that the sound quality he experienced while watching the Sunday service on March 20, 2022 was so muffled that he had to turn it off. Kelly said that there needed to be a sound check, both in the church and on-line prior to the beginning of the service.

Parking Lot Repair: Results from Gary contacting Grand Ledge Paving resulted in the following: Re-



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

pair the entrance \$850; filling cracks, repairing entrance and re-striping \$12,095; complete re-mill, new asphalt and re-striping \$71,000. No action taken.

Wedding Organist Charge: The upcoming wedding which had been planned prior to Covid restrictions, was quoted a fee of \$130 (instead of the current \$200 charge) for the Organist. Because this is an old price quote which must be honored, the church will make up the difference of \$70 to be paid to the Organist for this service.

Parking Lot Fall: Leah spoke with the individual who had fallen in the parking lot several weeks ago and reported that it was a fall unrelated to the condition of our parking lot and is not an insurance issue.

Payment of Salary for Bell Director: Because the current Bell Director, Darlene Banks, has personal issues which makes it impossible for her to perform the duties of the position, the Board decided that she be placed on an unpaid leave of absence until such time as it is determined when or if she will be able to return. The Treasurer, Fay Schroeder, has been instructed to stop paying her monthly payroll checks immediately until further notice.

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Laura will contact Phil Hart, Transitional Conference Minister, to see if he is free to preach a Sunday in her absence in June. Since this is his job, there would be no cost to our church.

Next meeting will be April 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. hopefully, in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 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., Denny 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.*



Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery

# RECYCLING FEVER

JUNE 18, 2022 9 PM - 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, 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\*\***

## 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 June 15, 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. **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](mailto:Recycle@eatoncounty.org), or call (517) 543-3686.

# June 2022

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

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26	
THEME	Pentecost and Graduation Sunday!	Love	Juneteenth and Father's Day	Open and Affirming Sunday	
TEXT	Psalm 104: 24-30 & 33 NT: Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 8  Romans 5:1-5	Psalm 22:19-28  Galatians 3:23-29		
HEAD USHER	Lisa Reed	Chris Cypher	Fay Schroeder	Cheryl Mattson	
GREETER	Pat Reed	Gary Cypher	Charlene Avery	Karen Walker	
LITURGIST		Lisa Reed	Sue Sackett	Freida Schneeberger	
SOUNDBOARD					
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	
HYMN SINGER	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir	



### June BIRTHDAYS

Emily Miller-Purrenhage	7th
June Robertson	11th
Karen Walker	15th
Riley Spayde	19th
Erica (Stoll) Oliver	23rd
Tamara Lipsey	27th
Eleanor Clark	29th
Gla' Spayde	30th



210 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Office Phone: 517- 627- 2336  
 Fax: 517- 627- 4539  
 Office E-mail: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)  
 Pastor's E-mail: [pastor@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:pastor@grandledgeucc.org)  
 Emergency Contact 517-374-0145  
[grandledgeucc.org](http://grandledgeucc.org)



<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>PASTOR'S KEYBOARD</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            Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director            Chuck Byam, Organist &amp; 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;"><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>
Sunday School Summer Youth Events Share Your Story	2	
Youth Calendar	3	
Congregators SISTERS OF RUTH Volunteers Needed INCOME & EXPENSE	4	
Bingo	5	
Board Minutes	6-8	
Thoughts and Prayers	8	
Recycle Event	9	
Calendar	10	
Sunday Schedule Birthdays	11	