



# THE CHURCH WINDOW

*March 2022*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

**Due to Pastor Laura being sick, The Pastor's Keyboard will return in the next newsletter.**

## CONGREGATORS

Congregators took a little break during cold and slippery winter months. But do we ever look forward to celebrating (almost) the first day of spring! We will meet at Sophia's at 1 pm on Tuesday, March 15. We have a lot to catch up on and will have many stories to share! All are welcome...just contact one of us if you'd like to attend!

**Jim (517.627.7968), Sandy (517.420.2121) or Charlene (517.281.5019)**

## Baby Jesus Tree

Again, this year the Sisters of Ruth collected items for newborns and infants throughout the month of December. Many wonderful gifts were given to the Baby Jesus Tree. Thank you for your generous gifts. The items will be given were: diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, large blankets and quilts, receiving blankets, sheets, swaddles, bibs, socks, onesies, sleepers, outfits, and miscellaneous clothing. All items were given to the Grand Ledge Food Bank for babies in need in the Grand Ledge area. Thank you for helping parents and newborns of the Grand Ledge area.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you for your donations for Souper Bowl of Caring 2022. With your help, we donated \$967 to the Grand Ledge Food Bank to tackle hunger here in Grand Ledge. Thank you to our youth who participated this year: Jackson and Mason Lipsey, Jack, Tim and Ben Kent. They make a great team!

## 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., Anna C., 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., 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.*

## WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS (WGOD)

We met on February 21, 2022 at noon for our brown bag lunch. After lunch we discussed chapters 11 through 18 of the book “In Sickness and In Health” by Rev. Barbara Edema. Our next meeting will be March 21, 2022. We will meet at noon in the Fellowship Hall and bring our own brown bag lunch. We will continue the discussing chapters 19 through 26 of the book “In Sickness and In Health.” This is the fifth book in the Pastor Maggie series. You may purchase the book through Amazon either in paperback or as an ebook.

If you have any questions, contact Fay Schroeder at [fschroeder4200@yahoo.com](mailto:fschroeder4200@yahoo.com) or (517) 627-2727.

## SISTERS OF RUTH (SOR)

Sisters of Ruth met for lunch on Monday, February 14, 2022 at Flour Child Bakery. We discussed our next community service project which is the personal care kits for the S.I.R.E.N Shelter. The S.I.R.E.N. Shelter is a shelter to help ones who must leave home because of abuse. It is based in Charlotte but helps anyone who lives in Eaton County. In April, SOR will be collecting small sizes of all personal items such as: shampoo, conditioner, body wash or soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, razors, deodorants, etc. We also need hand towels and washcloths to put in each kit. There will be a box in between the doors at the west end of the church (by the mailbox). Please begin collecting items now for donations in April.

Our next luncheon meeting will be March 14, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. at a restaurant to be determined, we will put it in the Thursday Pause later.

### Adopt Hayes Month of February

We ended our adopt Hayes month of February with Valentines to the entire staff of 90, take home dinners to the 5 secretaries, counselor appreciation baskets, a treat bag for the three custodians and a game of sock matching where the first five to match got prizes and the 46 pairs of socks got donated to the “store” for needy students.

Onward to March.

Sandy

## INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Annual
	January 2022	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
INCOME	\$11,230.21	\$ 11,230.31	\$ 10,989.67	\$131,876.00
EXPENSES	<u>11,928.87</u>	<u>11,928.87</u>	<u>12,308.83</u>	<u>152,326.00</u>
BALANCE	(\$ 698.66)	(\$ 698.66)	(\$ 1,319.17)	(\$ 20,450.00)

This year the congregation voted to approve a budget that was over \$20,000 in the red. With continued support of the members and friends and our due diligence in eliminating expenses, we will be able to forego the negative balance and end the year in good standing.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes      December 28, 2021**

### **Call to Order**

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

This meeting was held over Zoom due to Covid-19 virus distancing recommendations. Some members attended by telephone.

Board Members present: Leah Horn, Lynn Hart, Pastor Laura, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Fay Schroeder, Chris Clark, Thea Oatman, Kim Dible Glasser and Bil Turner. Kelly Stuitable-Clark was also present.

### **Spiritual Reflection**

Pastor Laura spoke of a recent daily devotional titled “Don’t Stop Now” that had focused on Psalm 148. We may think about a post-Christmas slow down, but the Psalmist seems to advise us to not slow down. Praise of God is every day, every year. Sing God’s praises! A prayer followed.

**Open Forum** Kelly Stuitable-Clark was present to discuss some recent items all related to our social media presence.

Results of our Facebook advertisements that detailed how many and who has been watching our Worship Services. We can broaden our reach if we each “like, share and comment” on the Worship Service posts.

Kelly posts on Instagram about our church, usually once a week and normally midweek.

Discussed the pros and cons of streaming on Facebook, YouTube and both simultaneously. Simultaneous streaming may present some challenges, but they can be overcome. StreamYard will charge \$25/month to stream with both. (See Action Item below)

**Consent Agenda** The Consent Agenda was accepted.

### **Action and Discussion Items**

**Streaming Service trial** Regarding the StreamYard discussion in Open Forum, moved by Karen, seconded by Chris, to purchase a two month trial of the “Basic Plan” that would allow us to stream simultaneously. Motion passed.

### **Personnel Update-Video Tech Position.**

The Personnel Committee has interviewed and hired an individual, David Wee, for the Video Tech position. He will be able to start soon.

### **Facilities Update**

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES continued

The roofer still can't get enough staff together to attend to our problem. There is no new info on the boiler. There is a light out between the two north entry doors and a parking lot light out in the driveway.

### Stewardship Campaign.

The total of pledges received to date is \$119.3K and not much more is expected. With the proposed expense budget, that will mean about a \$21K deficit.

### Proposed Budget

After discussion, moved by Bil, seconded by Fay to approve the proposed budget of \$152K. Motion passed.

### Board and Committee duties.

Fay has been unable to locate a notebook with Board and Committee duty descriptions. We will need to start this description process over. Also, Kelly has asked that a job description be prepared for the Social Media Administrator.

Change in Annual Meeting date. After discussion, moved by Bil, seconded by Fay to move the Annual Meeting to January 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed. This change will need to be announced during the Worship Service on the two preceding Sundays.

Courage Grant ideas. There have been many thoughtful emails exchanged about possible uses of this Grant. After discussion, moved by Lynn to use half the Grant to encourage the Hayes School staff in the face of the Pandemic, and half to help defray costs of replacing the Sanctuary fans. Motion passed. Lynn will respond to the Michigan Conference Office with our decision on how to use the Grant.

### New Business

Gas Cards in the Office The discussion focused on who can give out the existing gas cards when an emergency need is evident. There are many unanswered questions here. Leah will gather information.



Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, January 25th at 6:30 PM. The manner of the meeting is to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bil Turner, Church Clerk

## CHURCH INSTAGRAM

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

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	3 7—8:30 pm Choir Practice 8 pm AA	4	5 10am AA Women
6 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	7	8	9 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	10 7- 8:30 pm Choir Practice 8pm AA	11	12 10am AA Women
13 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	14 12:30 p..m. Sisters of Ruth	15	16 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	17 5:00 p.m—7:00 p.m. Rest In Rush Church Sanctuary 7-8:30 pm Choir Practice 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 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	24 8pm AA	25	26
27 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	28	29	30 6pm AA 6:30pm Exploring Faith 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	31		

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	March 2	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
THEME	Ash Wednesday	Gifts in the Wilderness	Treasures in Clay Jars		
TEXT	Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)	Deut 26:1-11			
HEAD USHER		Kathy Burt	Freida Schneeberger	Leah Horn	Kim Dible
GREETER		Gary Burt	Charlene Avery	Lynn Hart	Connie Dible
LITURGIST		Mary Lou Prevost	Marcia Kent	Jim Hart	Bil Turner
SOUNDBOARD		Mae Clark	Charlynn Walker	Karen Walker	Charlynn Walker
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	Kelly Stuible-Clark	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee
HYMN SINGER	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sara Gooley	2nd	Oscar Bouck	14th
John Campe	2nd	Gary Cypher	15th
Beth Pung	2nd	Hayden Nelson-Barnett	15th
Sue Mills	6th	Russ Marshall	17th
Matilda Oatman	10th	Josie Tanasse	21st
Jim Hart	11th	Lon Wilkinson	23rd
Sandy Horn	13th	Emily Mai	25th
Katy Ramos	13th	Allie Ramos	26th
Maxwell Bouck	14th	Jack Kent	30th
Elliott Bouck	14th	Darlene Banks	31st



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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>																								
PASTOR'S KEYBOARD	1	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 50%;"><b>STAFF</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 50%;"><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage</td> <td>Leah Horn, Moderator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larry Patterson Office Administrator</td> <td>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Vice Moderator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</td> <td>Mary Lou Prevost, Clerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director</td> <td>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chuck Byam, Organist</td> <td>Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator</td> <td>Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ben Sackett, Custodian</td> <td>Thea Oatman, Member-at-Large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicole Finney, Nursery Care Provider</td> <td>Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</td> <td>Kelly Stuitable-Clark, Christian Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Kim Dible, Congregational Life</td> </tr> </table>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b>	Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage	Leah Horn, Moderator	Larry Patterson Office Administrator	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Vice Moderator	Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Mary Lou Prevost, Clerk	Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer	Chuck Byam, Organist	Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary	Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator	Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large	Ben Sackett, Custodian	Thea Oatman, Member-at-Large	Nicole Finney, Nursery Care Provider	Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large	Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Kelly Stuitable-Clark, Christian Education		Kim Dible, Congregational Life
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