



# THE CHURCH WINDOW

*March 2023*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)

This past Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Lilian Daniel, the Michigan Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, preached at our church. She talked about the times in our lives when we feel like the man who is beaten and left for dead in a ditch in the Good Samaritan story. She compared the third year of the pandemic to that feeling—that sense that we are still struggling in a ditch, needing help from a compassionate passerby. I think that many of us resonated with this story. Not only are we struggling with how the pandemic is still changing our lives, but the mass shooting at MSU is a true trauma for the entire community. In addition to that, many of us are struggling with personal griefs, losses, and conflicts. There is A LOT that we are carrying and MANY reasons we might feel like we're in a ditch. Rev. Dr. Daniel's point was that God is the Good Samaritan in the story. When we lift our eyes to the hills and cry out, we will find that our help comes from our God, who made heaven and earth.

I share this reminder of her sermon with you because I have been wondering what people in the ditch do until that helping hand lifts us out? *Recognizing* that we are in a ditch is actually really helpful. When we can name our pain and our needs, it helps us to be able to accept help from others and to grant ourselves self-care. It's important to know that trauma affects our entire selves—our bodies, emotions, thoughts, and spirits. It generally settles in and affects us for quite some time. So if you find yourself unreasonably angry at little things, crying at the drop of a hat, unable to make decisions in the grocery store, unable to sleep, under or over eating, or turning towards unhealthy habits or substances, please know that these can be common reactions to trauma, as well the successive griefs that so many of us are experiencing. Now is a time to grant yourself grace, to forgive yourself for the tears and indecision, to find space to experience and let out those emotions in a healthy way. It's also a good time to reach out to trusted friends and family for support, to talk to a counselor, social worker, pastor, or psychologist, to go back to or find a support group or 12-step program. Now is the time to let the love of God shine through your inner being and through others to help you.

And, as people of God, we also turn to prayer. We believe that God holds and supports us in our struggles, and that God can help us find a way out of those struggles. Knowing this helps us keep our eyes on the hope that we won't be in that ditch forever. So, Dear Ones, look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Blessings, Pastor Laura

**Lenten Study 2023**  
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Beloved Ones,

You are all invited to join me in our intergenerational Lenten Book Study. We are reading *New Directions for Holy Questions: Progressive Theology for Families* by Claire Brown and Anita Peebles. This study allows us to consider (or reconsider) some of the most basic theological questions that Christianity asks. It can also help us to get to know one another a little bit better.

If you don't have the book yet, you can order from your favorite bookstore or this website: <https://www.newdirectionsforsacredquestions.com/>

We also still have a few copies, which you can pick up at the church. If it would help you to have us order you one, please let me know right away.

You are invited to start reading the week of Feb 26. If you can, take time to do any spiritual practices suggested by the chapters. Write down your responses to any questions the authors ask. Journal for yourself your thoughts about what you read. What questions come up for you or what questions does the chapter leave unanswered? Do the answers the authors present ring true for you? Have you found that you have had different answers to these questions throughout your life? How do the justice stories relate to the theological question(s) asked in the chapters?

We will hold our discussions after worship every Sunday for one hour in the fellowship hall, starting March 5 and ending on Easter. Each discussion is a stand-alone discussion, so if you miss a previous week, that's okay! It's actually also okay to attend the discussion without having done the reading. I would just love to have you there and hear what you're thinking about the questions we're asking!

We will NOT be reading the book in order, so please look below for each week's reading assignment. Every chapter begins with a summary of scripture, but you are welcome to get out your Bible and read the scripture itself, as well. For those of you who would really like to dive deeper into some of the concepts, I have provided some extra suggested scripture readings.

**Reading Schedule & Topics**

**Please try to have the reading done before the dates indicated below:**

March 5: Chapters 1-4 Who am I? Who are God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit?

Additional Scripture:

Chapter 1: Psalm 139:1-18 and/or read a couple translations of Genesis 1 and 2

Chapter 2: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 & 1 John 4:7-12

Chapter 3: John 1:1-14

Chapter 4: Genesis 1:2; John 14:15-31

March 12: Chapters 9 & 10: Where is God when bad things happen; why did Jesus die?

Additional Scripture:

Chapter 9: (The chapter summarizes all of Job, consider reading chapters Job 1,2,3, & 23; then read Psalm 46)

Chapter 10: John 18-19 (but if you have time, also read Matthew 26-27 for comparison)

March 19: Chapters 16, 12, 13: What is Sin and Forgiveness? What are Baptism & Communion?

Additional Scripture:

Chapter 16: Genesis 3:1-13 & 2 Corinthians 7:1 & 7:9-10

Chapter 12: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Chapter 13: 1 Corinthians 11: 17-27

March 26: Chapters 5-8: What are the Church, Bible, Worship, Prayer?

Additional Scripture:

Chapter 5: 1 Corinthians 12

Chapter 6: The authors suggest that you read some Bible stories. Here are a couple, if you need them:

Genesis 32:22-32

Exodus 17:1-7

Ruth 1:1-18

Acts 8:26-39

Luke 19:1-10

Chapter 7: Colossians 3:14-17

Chapter 8: Matthew 6:1-13; Luke 11:1-11; Romans 8:26-27

April 2 (Palm Sunday): Chapters 14 & 15: What Happens when we die? What is a Saint?

Additional Scripture

Chapter 14: Ecclesiastes 3 compared to 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Chapter 15: Hebrews 11:1-12:2

April 9 (Easter): **\*Please note that our discussion will take place during the pre-worship fellowship, around 9.**

Chapters 11,17, 18, 19: What is Resurrection? How Do we Care for Each other? How do we care for creation? What is the Kingdom of God?

Additional Scripture

Chapter 11: Luke 24

Chapter 17: Luke 10:25-37 & Matthew 20:1-16

Chapter 18: Leviticus 25

Chapter 19: Isaiah 65 & Revelation 21:1-6

### Grand Ledge Food Bank Simply Give at Meijer

The Winter Simply Give Campaign at Grand Ledge Meijer runs from January 1, 2023 through April 1, 2023. The recipient of this campaign is the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Customers are invited to purchase \$10 Simply Give donation cards.

That amount will go directly to the Food Bank. A single card can be used multiple times. In addition, if the cards are used on Saturday March 4 or Saturday March 25, Meijer will provide an additional \$20, bringing a total of \$30 to the Food Bank for each card purchase.

The sole purpose of the Simply Give program is to help food pantry partners feed the growing number of hungry families in the communities Meijer serves. At the end of this campaign, donations are converted to food only gift cards that the Food Bank can use to replenish their shelves.

If you would like a donation card or more information, contact Lynn at 281-8178 or [harta3@aol.com](mailto:harta3@aol.com).

### Jam and Jelly Collection

Each Sunday in Lent we will be collecting your favorite jam/jelly and/or salad dressing for the Grand Ledge Food Bank

### Lenten Book Study

Parents! Sunday, March 12th, we will be holding a quick planning meeting after the Lenten Book Study. Following worship, we are all invited to grab lunch and enjoy the book study even though we may not have actually read the book! The conversation will be suitable for all ages, and all ages are encouraged to attend. Please bring your ideas for the upcoming year for youth and children's programming and activities at FCUCC! If you have any questions, please get in touch with Demphna at [Demphna@childandfamily.org](mailto:Demphna@childandfamily.org) or (248) 396-2266.



### Ways to Keep In Touch with the Church!

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

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcmU3DDWy-JbJ04TgLTgWg>

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

## CONGREGATORS

Congregators are so looking forward to getting together for lunch and conversation since their last meeting in early December. This will be our first get together since losing our beloved and cherished friend Freida so there is sure to be much memory sharing. **Please note the time for our March 7 lunch has been changed to 12:30 pm.** Because Charlene will be away, please be sure to get in touch with Kathy Burt (517.627.9855) or Sandy to let us know you can make it or if you need a ride. All are welcome!

Charlene (517.281.5019) and Sandy (517.420.2121)

## Baby Jesus Tree

Thank you all for your generous support of the "Baby Jesus Tree." We collected about 70 baby items including packages of diapers, baby wipes, bath products, and many baby outfits/sleepers/onesies. All the items were donated to the Grand Ledge Food Bank. With your donations, babies in the Grand Ledge area will have warm clothes to wear. Many years ago the Baby Jesus Tree was started by a woman named Anne Ewing and our church has continued to support this very worthwhile project. This is a great way to honor the birth of Jesus. As always, our members are very supportive of the community. Thank you,

## WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS

Women Gathering Over Devotions (WGod) met on February 20, 2023 for lunch in the Fellowship Hall. The book "The Infinite Jeff, Part 3" by Will Holcomb and was discussed and our next book was chosen. It is "Many Lives, Many Masters" by Brian L. Weiss, M.D.

Our next meeting will be March 20, 2023. We will meet for a brown bag lunch in the Fellowship Hall at noon. After lunch we will discuss chapters 1 through 8 of "Many Lives, Many Masters." This book can be purchased either through Amazon or on an ebook.

## SISTERS OF RUTH

Sisters of Ruth met on at Sophia's on February 13, 2023. Our next luncheon will be March 13, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at a restaurant to be announced later. In April, 2023, Sisters of Ruth will begin our annual collection of personal care items, washcloths, and hand towels to assemble the personal care bags for S.I.R.E.N. Shelter. There will be more information in next month's newsletter.

## Income and Expense Report

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Annual
	January, 2023	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
INCOME	\$ 13,161.92	\$ 13,161.92	\$ 10,836.33	\$130,036.00
EXPENSES	<u>12,686.77</u>	<u>12,686.77</u>	<u>13,102.75</u>	<u>162,783.00</u>
BALANCE	\$ 478.15	\$ 478.15	(\$ 2,266.42)	(\$ 32,747.00)

The love and support this congregation has for our church shows through your financial, time, and talent support. We are beginning 2023 with a very positive note. With your prayers and support we will continue throughout the year.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge**  
**Executive Board Meeting Minutes          December 20, 2022**

**Call to Order:**

Moderator, Leah Horn, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

Excused Member: Ron Erskine,

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Leah began the meeting with prayer.

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

The meeting began with Pastor Laura who announced the very sad news of the passing of Freida Schneeberger early this morning. The funeral will be held at our church on December 29 with visitation the day before from 6 to 8 p.m. at Holihan's Funeral Home. Pastor offered a prayer.

**Consent Agenda:**

All reports in the consent agenda were accepted.

**Action and Discussion Items:**

Cross Lighting Repairs:

The cost of replacing the neon light behind the cross was received from the electrician today. The sign company placed a bid of \$2,042.50 for replacing the neon light or replacing the entire system with updated but similar LED lighting, at the cost of \$2,650 with a 5 year warranty. The company who caused the damage when installing the fans has taken responsibility and turned it over to their insurance company who will pay to replace the neon lights up to the \$2,042.50 cost. However, if we choose to replace the neon with LED, the additional cost to do this is \$608 which would be the responsibility of the church to pay. Motion made by Karen, seconded by Thea to pay the \$608 for the LED lighting update. Motion carried. Fay suggested this cost could come from the Building and Property Restricted Fund.

Possible Auxiliary Furnace Replacement:

The choir room furnace has been having intermittent issues. The repairman put in a new part today which he thought would correct the problem. They will hold off charging us for a week or so until it is determined that this has fixed it. Because the furnace is 20 years old, it is possible that it may have to be replaced in the near future.

Labor Poster Requirements:

To comply with federal and state laws, Leah obtained a poster that includes all of the laws for a

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

cost of \$25. This will be posted on the back wall of the main office which is accessible to all employees and job applicants.

### Emergency Procedures Update:

TABLED for lack of time needed to review.

### Possible Gift Card for Lawn/Plowing Service:

To recognize the additional services which Tim and his assistant have provided the church throughout the year at no cost, we discussed giving gift cards. Motion made by Thea, seconded by Fay to give Tim and his assistant each a \$50 gift card for Cugino's Restaurant. Motion carried.

### Request for Kitchen Repairs:

There has been a request for needed kitchen repairs, namely: The broken garbage disposal (\$2,361.16), the dead booster heater (\$2,225.30) and the pre-rinser (\$382.87). These parts are for the old dishwasher all of which need to be replaced. Gary Burt contacted a professional kitchen supplier to obtain the replacement costs which, for the items only, was \$4,969.33. This does not include installment and plumbing. Not being able to use the dishwasher has become a deterrent for holding events which requires washing dishes for a couple hours. He suggested that repairs could be funded through the Hauter Fund and possibly through donations from the members of the congregation. Obtaining additional bids was discussed as well as looking into the replacement of the entire dishwasher since the one in the church is so old. Leah will talk to Gary after the holidays.



### Misc. Updates covered in Email:

Vote on Staff Bonuses - Approved

Vote on Christmas Eve Offertory Recipient and Process for Passing the Plate - Approved  
Vote on Staff/Volunteer Background Check Procedures and Form - Approved

Vote on Christmas Eve Music - Approved

### Proposed Budget for 2023

After reviewing and discussing in depth, the proposed budget, a motion was made by Karen, seconded by Fay to accept the proposed budget with changes as noted. Motion carried. Fay will send an update to the Board.

### Response to Accessibility Presentation:

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Kelly will do a few edits to the presentation based on the response she received and add some pictures for the guided tour on the website. In addition, Kelly ran the pictures of the stained glass series along with the wording provided by Thea on Facebook.

### Staffing Updates:

At this point, because it was related to personnel issues, the Board went into closed session.

It is noted that Jonathan Thurston, who is Larry's spouse, will play for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's day services; and, James Sullivan will fill in beginning in January for which he has agreed to accept our pay scale. Additionally, Brandon will accompany Kelly Gruner. It was decided that subs will be paid the day they perform. No one subbing will reach their maximum pay in 2022, but may reach it in 2023. They will, however, be required to fill out a W-9 form.

### Updated Pastor Responsibilities:

TABLED until January meeting.

### Nominating Committee Update:

Not completely available at this time.

### Miscellaneous:

Kelly let the folks from Right-to-Be know that we are not going to be able to do a training in February and will look for possibly after Easter. The Board will decide in January or February.

If there is a blizzard on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day, the decision to close would be made by the Pastor and Moderator. If the decision is to close, the service would shift to on-line services from home. Pastor Laura will contact David to see if he can stream from his home in this event.

Fay related that because the price of stamps will increase in January, she will purchase 500 stamps prior to the price rise.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Prevost, Church Clerk



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

December 20, 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, Lynn Hart, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Leah Horn, Thea Oatman, Mary Lou Prevost, and Fay Schroeder.

Excused Member: Ron Erskine, Pastor Laura Miller-Purrenhage and Kelly Stuible-Clark.

**Spiritual Reflection:** Leah began the meeting with a new year's prayer based on 1 King 3: 5-12.

**Open Forum:** Present were Kathy and Gary Burt, Linda Gooley and Chuck Byam. Each of these individuals were present to voice their strong opposition to the Behavior and Communication Covenant which had been presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023. At this time, Mary Lou Prevost followed with a presentation of her reasons for opposition to this covenant. Leah mentioned that the adoption of this covenant would have to be through the vote of the congregation. The Board does not have the authority to adopt this type of covenant but does have the authority to bring it to the congregation again. It made Leah feel good that people cared enough to respond and take the time to carefully word their presentation to reflect how they feel and taking the time to come. It was made clear that it was never anyone's intention to make individuals feel uncomfortable or hurt people due to this proposed covenant.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

There were no Board reports because they were all contained in the Annual Report. Lynn mentioned that in the Report, there were two items in the Restricted Funds found on page 12 that have negative balances and should not continue to be listed. One was for \$67 for holiday flowers which were purchased and not totally reimbursed, and the other was \$50 for Advent/Lent Devotionals for which reimbursement was insufficient to covers the costs. Both of these items will be cleared off the books by the end of January with the offer of a donation made to reimburse the church for this. With this resolved, the consent agenda was approved as submitted.

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

##### Updated Pastor Responsibilities:

Fay brought attention to the last item of Pastor Laura's report to revise the staff sick leave and vacation policy. Since the Pastor has talked about her hours in excess of what she should be working, Fay questioned if she and Thea could get together before including the Pastor to work on this so that it does not add to the Pastor's hours. Leah mentioned that she does not believe

that Pastor Laura would object to them drafting something and then getting together to discuss this.

Leah said that there was some uncertainty about the schedule when there are five Sundays in a month. This makes it a problem as to when Kim is supposed to find someone for Fresh Perspectives and someone for the homily. The individuals originally responsible for putting together the “Ministries of the Church”, namely, Kim, Lynn, Leah and Mary Lou, will individually review this document and make any recommended changes to be considered in a forthcoming group meeting.

Emergency Procedures Update:

TABLED for lack of time needed to review.

Updated Request for Kitchen Repairs:

Gary Burt provided the following information: To purchase a new disposal, dishwasher, a pre-rinse assembly and counter top would cost approximately \$14,695. Depending upon the type of dishwasher selected, it could cost \$18,935 which does not include installation and plumbing. Fay mentioned that we need the garbage disposal, but we can't do just that, because we also have to replace the water heater which is connected to the dishwasher. It was mentioned that paper products are a lot cheaper and just scrape everything into the trash. To repair the equipment we have was going to be \$4,000 for materials with installation and plumbing on top of that. They were reluctant to bid a price on installation and plumbing because they could not predict what they would encounter in the repair process. Leah will reach out to Gary to ask if he would contact another company to learn if we can get an idea of total cost involved.



Possible By-Stander Training Scheduling and Red Cross/CPR Training:

Lynn asked, if we are going to open this up to outside groups, do we have someone who is going to coordinate this? Kim asked if we would charge other organizations for attending? Since Kelly is leading this and won't be present until the March meeting, she may be able to provide answers to questions prior to that. This was TABLED until the February or March meeting depending upon further information.

The possibility of offering Red Cross/CPR Training was discussed. Mary Lou mentioned that she and Linda Gooley met with the Chief of the Grand Ledge Fire Department several months ago and learned that they may have this training available sometime after the first of the year. Mary Lou will contact them to find out if and when this may be available.

Possibility of Earlier Worship During Summer Months:

It was discussed a few months ago to consider changing the hours of church to an earlier time in the summer because it is cooler in the morning. On those hot days, church was held in the air conditioned area, but since we cannot stream the service from there, we must meet in the

sanctuary. We do have the new ceiling fans now, which should help. It was decided to leave the service at the current time of 10:30 a.m.

The individuals who had been in attendance for the open forum were excused at this point due to the discussion of staffing issues.

Behavioral Covenant Revision:

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mary Lou, seconded by Fay that, in light of additional information which has come forth from the congregation it was moved to not pursue the adoption of the Behavior and Communication Covenant which was presented at the Annual Meeting of January 22, 2023 for the First Congregational UCC, Grand Ledge. Motion unanimously approved.

Staffing Updates:

Vacant Accompanist/Organist Position:

Leah stated that she, Lisa Reed and Kelly Stuible-Clark had interviewed James Sullivan for the position of Accompanist/Organist whom was very impressive. Because he has loads of keyboard experience, he doesn't believe it would be difficult for him to learn to play the organ, which he plans to do. However, he does not expect to be ready to play this instrument until after this fall.

Motion made by Karen to offer him the position, seconded by Kim. Motion unanimously approved.

Possible Soundboard Position (Originated from the Sound Out portion of the Annual Meeting): Mae Clark strongly urged making the Sound Board Coordinator a paid position. Leah spoke to both individuals who share this responsibility, and both responded that they did not wish to be paid and, if they were paid, they would give the money back to the church. After an explanation of all of the ramifications for doing this, there was a understanding for not changing it at this time.

Pastoral Salary/Hours Question:

Because of staffing issues, a funeral and the cancellation of in-church Christmas Eve service, etc., Pastor Laura has exceeded her allotted time by 16 hours. Karen made the motion to compensate her for however many hours she is over by the end of January. Thea seconded. There was a discussion concerning her agreement to bank unused hours to be used during times of higher work demands, which she has been doing. However, because of a number of reasons, this has not turned into enough hours to cover the time worked. The motion carried with 6 yeas and 3 nays.

Lynn mentioned that if we could finish the Ministries of the Church document and reassign some of the job responsibilities to the other Boards, her hours could be more manageable.

**Miscellaneous:**

New Personnel Team:

There is a need for volunteers who wish to serve in this capacity. The primary functions of this team would be scheduling initial interviews, job postings for vacancies and being a sounding board for the staff who may have performance issues. Lisa Reed will continue through May of this year. Be thinking of those individuals who may be interested in this job.

Creation of an Emergency Closure Plan:

In the event of inclement weather we need a plan and identify individuals who would contact the congregation informing them of a closure so that they don't travel to a closed church. This also would include notification on social media, sending out an e-mail, contacting people who do not have e-mail, contacting staff, changing the office phone message, etc. Leah will work on this.

Notifying Staff of Pay Raises:

The question was posed, who notifies staff that they have received a pay raise. It was suggested that this will be the responsibility of the Board.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully 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.*

### **Lent, Easter, and Beyond**

- March 5-April 9: Lenten Book Study Discussions after worship in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday
- April 2: Palm Sunday
- April 6: Maundy Thursday Taize Service 7pm
- April 7: Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Wacousta United Methodist Church 7pm
- April 9: Sunrise Service at 8:30 am (either in Fitzgerald Memorial Garden or the Narthex)  
Fellowship Time & Final Book Discussion at 9:00  
Easter Egg Hunt on church grounds 9-10  
Easter Service 10:30
- April 16: Holy Humor Sunday followed by a Games, Cards, & Puzzles Fellowship/Potluck in the Fellowship Hall
- May 28: Pentecost
- June 4: Graduation Sunday
- June 17-18: Lansing Pride
- June 25: Open and Affirming Sunday

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Community Meal 5:30-6pm – GL United Methodist Church 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	2 <b>6pm Chancel Choir Practice</b>	3	4  10am AA Wom- en
5 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Lenten Book study Discussions	6 6:30PM Grand Ringers Prac- tice	7 Congregators meetings, 1pm at So- phias	8 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	9 <b>6pm Chancel Choir Practice</b>	10	11  10am AA Wom- en
12 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Wor- ship Service Lenten Book study Discussions	13 6:30PM Grand Ringers Prac- tice Sisters of Ruth, 12:30pm	14	15 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA Rest in the rush 5- 7pm	16 <b>6pm Chancel Choir Practice</b>	17	18  10am AA Wom- en
19 10:30am In-Person and Facebk Worship Service Lenten Book study Discussions	20 6:30PM Grand Ringers Prac- tice WGOD - 12:00pm	21	22 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	23 <b>6pm Chancel Choir Practice</b>	24	25  10am AA Wom- en
26 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Lenten Book study Discussions	21 6:30PM Grand Ringers Prac- tice	28 6:30pm Execu- tive Board Meet- ing	29 6pm AA 7:30pm Al-Anon 8pm AA	30 <b>6pm Chancel Choir Practice</b>	31	

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	
THEME	Not All Who Wonder or Wander are Lost	Where is God when bad things happen?	What is sin and forgiveness	What is prayer?	
TEXT	Deuteronomy 2:7 Matthew 7:7-11	Job 23 Luke 22:39-44	Genesis 3:1-13 1 John 2:8-10	Romans 8:26-27 Phillipians 4:5-7 Genesis 22:22-32	
HEAD USHER	Chris Cypher	Kathy and Gary Burt	Kim Dible	Tina Lamer	
GREETER	Chuck Byam	Lynn Hart	Jackson and Mason Lipsey	Fay Schroeder	
LITURGIST	Rich Brown	Greg Elbin	Tamara Lipsey	Sue Sackett	
SOUNDBOARD	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn	Julie Wilkinson	
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	
HYMN SINGER	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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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	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center; width: 50%;"><b>STAFF</b></th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 50%;"><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage</td> <td>Leah Horn, Moderator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larry Patterson Office Administrator</td> <td>Thea Oatman, Vice Moderator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brandon Frost, Choir Director</td> <td>Mary Lou Prevost, Clerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carol Orsborn, Bell Choir Director</td> <td>Fay Schroeder, Treasurer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr. James Sullivan, Organist &amp; Accompanist</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>Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</td> <td>Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Kelly Stuible-Clark, Christian Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Kim Dible, Congregational Life</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b>	Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage	Leah Horn, Moderator	Larry Patterson Office Administrator	Thea Oatman, Vice Moderator	Brandon Frost, Choir Director	Mary Lou Prevost, Clerk	Carol Orsborn, Bell Choir Director	Fay Schroeder, Treasurer	Dr. James Sullivan, Organist & Accompanist	Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary	Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator	Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large	Ben Sackett, Custodian	Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large	Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large		Kelly Stuible-Clark, Christian Education		Kim Dible, Congregational Life
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