



# THE CHURCH WINDOW

*May 2023*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

Dear Ones,

Our Lenten wondering and wandering was transformed on Easter Sunday when we found that there is no real end, in this life, to our wandering. Although that could sound disturbing, we who are Resurrection People realize that it is wonderful, invigorating, joyful! Thinking of this reminded me of a poem I read, which was written as a Call to Worship. It was written by Craig Mitchell (2005) & Iona Community and can be found in "Emmaus Worship Service," posted on **Mountain Masala: Exploring Spirituality, Culture, Media and Cuisine.**"

[http://craigmitchell.typepad.com/mountain\\_masala/files/Emmaus%20Worship%20Service.pdf](http://craigmitchell.typepad.com/mountain_masala/files/Emmaus%20Worship%20Service.pdf)

Let these thoughts of the Emmaus journey guide us all this month:

Easter is not an event that has occurred  
it's an adventure that has begun  
not a place that we have visited  
but a path on which we stand

a story not complete, but unfolding  
characters still breathing  
stations still teeming  
with the promise of new life  
not just for you and me  
but for all people, in all places

a cosmic crux  
a turning point of time

Easter is the season  
of wild hope  
of dangerous intent  
of potent promise

where the future flaps unfurled  
in the spirit's breeze

## From the Pastor's Keyboard (CONT.)

where hopes bubble  
with uncorked effervescence

where toes tap  
to free-form rhythms

where rainbow hues  
splash empty canvas

Now  
we continue the journey  
we re-enter the story  
to explore our questions  
to uncover our doubts  
to face our nagging need

We walk the path  
of two who traveled a dusty road  
wrapped in confusion and despair  
two who shared the company of a stranger  
voicing their pain  
airing their fears  
and in the listening  
heard words of hope and promise  
and in the eating  
received true bread of life

Now we re-enter the story  
with expectation that Christ  
will also reveal himself to us  
in sights and sounds  
in words and symbols  
in bread and wine  
Amen.

### CONGREGATORS

Tuesday, May 2, 2023—Sophia’s 1:00pm

Spring has certainly arrived in a big way! Daffodils, forsythia, tulips, crab trees and red bud are blooming or about to bloom. Our Congregators group always looks forward to getting together for lunch and conversation each month. We welcome anyone new who wants to join us as we are always eager to make new church friends. Get in touch with either of us to let us know you can make it or if you need a ride! Charlene (517.281.5019) and Sandy (517.420.2121)

### WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS

Sister of Ruth will still be collecting travel size of personal care items; such as, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, combs, razors, shower gel or bar soap. We are also asking for hand towels and washcloths until May 8, 2023. On May 8, 2023, we meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. to put together the personal care packets for the S.I.R.E.N. Shelter of Eaton County.

There will be a box in the narthex to place your donated items. For those of you who wish to donate during the hours our office is not open, there will be a box between the doors at the west side of the church (by the mailbox).

After we have completed the personal care packets, we will go to a restaurant to be determined at the meeting for lunch.

### SISTERS OF RUTH

Women Gathering Over Devotions (WGod) met on April 17, 2023 for lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Our discussion was the last nine chapters of the book “Many Lives, Many Masters” by Brian L. Weiss, M.D. The discussion was very interesting as several had different views.

For our next meeting will be on May 15, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Bring your own lunch. Since we have finished our book and this is the last meeting for this program year, if you have a special devotion bring it for discussion. Also, bring suggestions for our next book to begin discussing at our first fall meeting.

## Income and Expense Report

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Annual
	March, 2023	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
INCOME	\$ 10,498.14	\$ 38,179.56	\$ 32,509.56	\$130,036.00
EXPENSES	<u>17,288.68</u>	<u>42,885.34</u>	<u>40,308.25</u>	<u>162,783.00</u>
BALANCE	(\$ 6,790.54)	(\$ 4,705.78)	(\$ 7,799.25)	(\$ 32,747.00)

The deficit is due because there were some large payments due in March and our income was quite a bit less than the previous months. Your continued support will reduce the deficit and let us serve our congregation and community.

🎵 🎵 **“TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME”**

Let's get a fun group from our church for the **Saturday, August 19**, Lansing Lugnuts game at Jackson Field vs the Great Lakes Loons from Midland! Pastor Laura and her husband John plan to go. They will be special guests at a pregame dinner along with other area pastors!

**Group rate tickets are \$11 each; two years old and younger are free.** We need a minimum of ten people to get the group rate; otherwise, tickets are \$15 on the day of the game and \$13 if bought in advance for a group under 10.

**The first pitch will be at 7:05pm** so it's recommended we arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of time in order to get there for pastor recognition and first pitch!

No food or beverages are allowed to be brought in.

Parking is available at several nearby lots for \$2/hour...some of us may plan to carpool from the church.

Plan to stay for beautiful LAFCU fireworks after the game!

So...check your summer calendar and let me know if you can go or have questions. Feel free to ask friends! **I will need your ticket money no later than Sunday, May 21. See me in church or call me at 517.281.5019 ...**

### **Grand Ledge Blessings in A Backpack**

The Grand Ledge Public Schools have over 1300 students that qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program. To qualify for the free- and reduced-lunch program, a child must be considered “at risk for food insecurity,” which means that he or she may be at risk for having inconsistent access to food at home. While these at-risk children are fed at school during the school week through the subsidized breakfast and lunch programs, what happens to these children on the weekends? Food insecurity doesn't take a break on the weekends. That's where Blessings in a Backpack Grand Ledge steps in. Our goal is to ensure that at-risk students have access to food over the weekend so that they show up at school well-nourished and ready to learn on Mondays.

Eleven years ago, Pastor Nicolette and members of our congregation played a key role in launching the Blessings in a Backpack program in the Grand Ledge community. Each year we organize a team from our church to help bag meals and prepare them for distribution. This requires about one to two hours of your your time. We are seeking six to eight members to join us on at **3:00 pm on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Sawdon Building (old high school) in Grand Ledge.** This is the last distribution for the program before summer break, so let's give the kids a good start to summer!

Questions? Contact Ron Erskine 517-930-2054 or [ranchomalario@gmail.com](mailto:ranchomalario@gmail.com)

More info at <https://blessingsinabackpackgl.org/>

### **Wednesdays, May 3 and June 4 - Free Community Meal**

Please come! ☐ The free community meals held the first Wednesday of each month at the Grand Ledge First United Methodist Church continue to be a huge success with over 60 people coming to have a delicious meal. After the May 3 and June 4, there won't be another meal until September 6. **Food is served from 5:30-6:30pm.** It's been fun to see people coming into the dining room to not just eat but to see old friends and meet new ones. All ages have been coming from preschoolers to senior citizens. **Let's see if we can fill a table or two in May and June!** Charlene Avery (517.281.5019) and Sandy Sipes (517.420.2121)

### **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          February 28, 2023**

**Call to Order**

Moderator Leah Horn called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Board Members present: Charlene Avery, Gary Cypher, Kim Dible-Glasser, Ron Erskine, Lynn Hart, Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Leah Horn, Pastor Laura, Thea Oatman, Fay Schroeder, Kelly Stuible-Clark and Bil Turner

**Spiritual Reflection**

Leah read a passage from the book of Hebrews and offered some thoughts on our mutual need for one another, followed by a prayer

**Open Forum**

No one was present for this item.

**Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

**Action and Discussion Items**

*Pastor's Call Agreement Discussion*

Pastor Laura focused the discussion on those occasions when she has needed more than the agreed upon weekly hours. How should this situation be addressed in the future? The Board felt that her primary focus should be on what is viewed as the “core ministry”. Then “core ministry” was discussed. The consensus was that only in circumstances when Pastor Laura anticipated going over her normal weekly hours and also the extra time was to be focused on items that were not “core ministry”, she should discuss this with the Moderator or Vice Moderator and the Pastor/Parrish Team. It was agreed that this has been a rare combination in the past.

The Board is asked to think about this topic. Karen and Pastor Laura will confer about it.

*Possible Bystander Training*

Bystander Training centers on the idea that we all can play a role in creating safe public

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

spaces for each other when we see our neighbors and community members facing bias, discrimination, or harassment. The training is available for \$1450 for one hour and \$1600 for 1.5 hours of training. The one hour training seemed most appropriate. Kelly can look for available dates. September is likely. There may be Endowment funds available to underwrite the cost. Moved by Fay, seconded by Gary to move forward with this training. Motion passed.

### Possible Red Cross CPR training

There is interest among staff and others to pursue this training. The cost is \$50 per trainee. There is a personnel expense line that fits this type of expense. Moved by Karen, seconded by Kelly to move forward with this training. Motion passed.



### Funeral Costs and Procedures

After discussion it was agreed to leave all the fee amounts blank, and to fill them in as needed with the amounts that are current at the time of the funeral. So moved by Fay and seconded by Charlene. Motion passed.

### Book Report – Part Time is Plenty

This book is written by a bi-vocational minister. Lynn reported that the book is excellent and full of inspiration and ideas that are suited for a congregation like ours. There are two copies available in the church.

### E-mail votes

- Personnel Committee. The changes include; having the Office Administrator secure background checks, and inclusion of the phrase “Choir members should not be responsible for attending evaluations of Music staff”. The write up for Personnel Committee Duties and Responsibilities is now on Dropbox.

- Spraying for flies. The vote was to not spray

Emmanuel Lutheran use of our church. Yes, they may use the church

### Misc. Updates

- Kitchen quotes. Gary is working on this.

- Emergency Procedures. Directional markers for the hall are available and other items are being discussed.

- Potential Lugnuts outing. Charlene has it scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>. Announcements will be made.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

Staff substitute list. Work is ongoing.

### **New Business**

Fay is having trouble receiving some e-mail notifications regarding church bills. Possible solutions were proposed. Ron and/or Pastor Laura will help Fay with this

Ben Banks is considering selling some of the bells and other bell-related items. A thorough discussion followed. Action by the Board will follow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bil Turner, Church Clerk

## Volunteer Schedule

Date	Greeter	Head Usher	Liturgist	Fresh Perspectives	Homily	Soundboard
6/4	Sandy Sipes	Susan Elbin	Leah Horn	Pastor Laura	Pastor Laura	
6/11	Gary Burt	Kathy Burt	Lisa Reed	Demphna Krikorian	Pastor Laura	
6/18	Charlene Avery	Tina Lamer	Ron Erskine	Demphna Krikorian	Pastor Laura	
6/25	Fay Schroeder	Cheryl Mattson	Marcia Kent	Lisa Reed	Lisa Reed	

## Prayers, Cards, and Support

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.*





# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice	2 Congregators meetings, 1pm at Sophias	3 Community Meal 5:30pm Grand Ledge Methodist Church	4 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 8pm AA	5	6 10am AA Women
7 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	8 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice  WGOD	9	10 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	11 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 8pm AA	12	13 10am AA Women
14 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service	15 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice Sisters of Ruth	16	17 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA Rest in the rush 5-7pm	18 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 8pm AA	19	20 10am AA Women
21 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship	22 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice WGOD - 12:00pm	23	24 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon	25 6pm Chancel Choir Practice 8pm AA	26	27 10am AA Women
28 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship	29 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice	30 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	31 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA			

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	
THEME	Jesus is the Way	How We Show God Love		Pentecost	
TEXT	John 14:1-14	John 14: 15-21			
HEAD USHER	Chris Cypher	Tina Lamer	Kim Dible	Lisa Reed	
GREETER	Chuck Byam	Lynn Hard	Connie Dible	Bil Turner	
LITURGIST	Rich Brown	Greg Elbin	Sue Sackett	Vickie Korroch	
SOUNDBOARD	Julie Wilkinson	Julie Wilkinson	Charlynn Walker	Charlynn Walker	
VIRTUAL COORDINATOR	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	David Wee	
HYMN SINGER	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir	



### May BIRTHDAYS

Josh Gooley	3rd
Sandy Sipes	4th
Bobbie Tanasse	5th
Olivia Westfall	5th
Ted Westfall	5th
Kyler Posey	10th
Paul Oatman	12th
Mike Pier	24th
Lisa Reed	26th
Pam Westfall	27th



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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>PASTOR'S KEYBOARD</b>	1-2	<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            Dr. James Sullivan, Organist &amp; Accompanist            Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator            Ben Sackett, Custodian            Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus</p>
Congregators WGOD Sisters of Ruth INCOME & EXPENSE	3	
Take Me Out to the Ball Game Blessings in a Backpack Community Meal	4	
Board Minutes	5-7	
Volunteer Schedule Prayers, Cards, and Support	8	
Calendar	10	
Sunday Schedule Birthdays	11	
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS &amp; BOARD CHAIRS</b></p> <p>Leah Horn, Moderator            Thea Oatman, Vice Moderator            Bil Turner, Clerk            Fay Schroeder, Treasurer            Lynn Hart, Financial Secretary            Charlene Avery, Member-at-Large            Karen Holcomb-Merrill, Member-at-Large            Gary Cypher, Member-at-Large            Kelly Stuible-Clark, Christian Education            Kim Dible, Congregational Life            Ron Erskine, Outreach Board</p>