



THE CHURCH WINDOW

*October
2022*



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Dear Ones,

Autumn is our season of change, and change brings with it beauty. Although the wind blows a little colder, it swirls the multi-colored leaves as they fall from the trees, bringing them and their beauty to our attention. Although the sun sets a little earlier, the quality of its beams during the day are different than they are in the summer—less brilliantly bright and more subtle. It changes the way we perceive color or even just the way we perceive our neighborhoods. It is beautiful. And although for most of us, the rest and relaxation of the summer are over, we now get to be involved in the hustle and bustle of life that allows us to interact with so many different people in our community. These changes are a part of the cycle of life and they, too, are beautiful.

It's helpful to think of change as beautiful, as part of life's seasons, as part of God's Creation, especially as we think about changes within our church. Changing to bi-vocational ministry (instead of having a full-time pastor) and adjusting to hybrid ministry (in-person and online) can bring a sense of chaos or possibly frustration. Questions will probably arise: Who is supposed to be doing that? Didn't we used to do things this way? What is going on with our internet and why? But, at the same time, something beautiful, new and amazing can happen in churches in these times of change: Someone finds new purpose and hope in a new-to-them volunteer role; the church becomes delighted in a new way of doing an old ministry; the wider

community suddenly finds care and support when they thought they were alone. God's beauty can be found in these changes.

For the next couple of months, our church will explore what it means to be a bi-vocational and hybrid church, and what being a congregation in this time and place means. You are invited to take this metaphorical stroll into the autumn with me, asking questions, watching some leaves fall, and then picking them up to admire them for their color. And as we walk, let us remember that God walks with us, giving us eyes to see what is new, ears to hear what is needed, hearts to grieve and let go of the past, and minds to accept the new with joy. Thanks be to God.

Looking for a Purr-fect Outing with your pet?

Be sure to come to the Blessing of the Pets Service! The service will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2022, and begins at 3:00 pm and last no longer than an hour. We will be meeting at the back entrance to the church. Feel free to bring your furry friends along (or even your slithering, cold-blooded friends). There is also an option to email to us photos of your pet that you would like blessed or bring a photo to church to the service or before the service and give it to Pastor Laura. We will have a canopy in case of inclement weather. You can stay in your car for the blessing as well. Treats will be supplied for both pets and their people. Contact the church office with any questions.

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: November 27

Installation Service for Conference Minister

Michigan Conference UCC will be hosting a Hybrid Installation service for Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel. The service will take place Sunday, October 23 at 3:00pm. The in person service will take place at Edgewood United Church, UCC East Lansing. The service will also be viewable on the church's YouTube Channel.

Registration for the Installation Service:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eje6oju9259458bf&llr=vvgfsudab>

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.

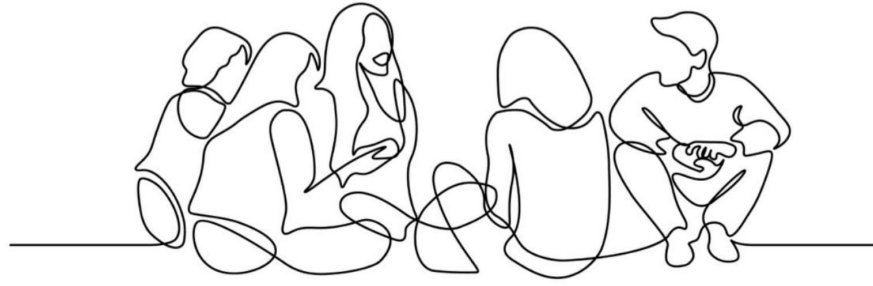
Prayer request: Please pray for those affected by the Coronavirus as well as all those on our prayer list: Darlene B., Corey, Kaleb, Beth P., Doris B., Lili B., Kathy H., Cindy G., Carole S., Barbara N., Geri L., Robert E., Larry and Carol S., Marty S, Maryann, Patricia R., Sarah B., Jenna P., Ron, Katy 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.*

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.

Please note the change in September.

Grades 6th through 12th are invited to attend.

NOTE: No Youth Group on Sunday, Sept. 4th due to the Labor Day Weekend.

1. **September 11th: Rally Sunday.** We will be involved in the worship service & help make pennants for our school for the bulletin board after church at the church fellowship party for Rally Sunday.
2. **October:** Scary Movie with popcorn and hotdogs.
3. **November:** Tie blankets for shelters
4. **December:** Card signing and cookie baking to be delivered to the homebound members of our church and white elephant exchange.
5. **January:** Help organize toys at Child and Family Charities. Pizza lunch.
6. **February:** Tie blankets for shelters and Canned Food Drive
7. **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 had such a nice September lunch after not seeing each other through most of the summer months...there was a lot to catch up on and time flew by...the table was full with nine of us! Our next lunch date is Tuesday, October 4, 1 pm at Sophia's restaurant in Grand Ledge. New friends are always welcome...this is a great way to meet others in our congregation. Let one of us know if you can attend!

Charlene (517.281.5019) or Sandy (517.420.2121)

WOMEN GATHERING OVER DEVOTIONS

The first Women Gathering Over Devotions was on September 19, 2022 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We have decided to read the book, "The Infinite Jeff" by Will Holcomb. We discussed the first 10 chapters and decided our next book will be "The Infinite Jeff, Part 2" by Will Holcomb.

October 17, 2022 is the date of our next meeting. Bring your own lunch and meet us in the Fellowship Hall at noon. We will be discussing the book, "The Infinite Jeff, Part 1" Chapter 11 to the end.

If you are thinking of joining us, just come and see what we are all about. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: Fay Schroeder, at either (517) 627-2727 or fschroeder4200@yahoo.com.

SISTERS OF RUTH

Sisters of Ruth October luncheon will be at Toads at 12:30 p.m. on October 10, 2022. We will discuss our community projects for the year. If you have any questions, contact Fay Schroeder.

Income and Expense Report

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	August 2022	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
INCOME	\$ 8,798.06	\$105,101.26	\$ 87,917.33	\$131,876.00
EXPENSES	<u>14,216.22</u>	<u>97,337.21</u>	<u>100,550.67</u>	<u>152,326.00</u>
BALANCE	(\$ 5,418.16)	\$ 7,764.15	(\$ 12,633.33)	(\$ 20,450.00)

Even though we are in the red for the month, due to several persons giving their entire pledge we are in the black for the year. This is a reminder that this number will go down as the year progresses with winter expenses coming on. But with your continued support of donations and prayers, our balance will be positive. The blessings of our church and congregation will enable us to grow in faith and in our community.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
First Congregational United Church of Christ – Grand Ledge
Executive Board Meeting Minutes July 26, 2022

Call to Order:

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Grand Ledge Executive Board Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2022

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

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

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

Excused Members: Charlene Avery, Ron Erskine and Thea Oatman.

Spiritual Reflection:

Leah began with a spiritual reflection from the May edition of the UCC Daily Devotional which was inspired from 1st Corinthians. The message was encouraging everyone to listen to hear everything.

Open Forum: Chuck Byam was “here to listen” and to discuss funding for a planned Christmas Cantata which includes the music, instruments and paid musicians. The cost would be as much as \$1,000 for the event. In addition, the Bell Director, Carol Orsborn, has requested permission to purchase music which is designed specifically for a small bell choir using one octave. There is currently \$900 in the General Music budget and, \$200 in the budget for Accompanists, and permission was granted to go over budget if necessary to pay for all of these requests.

Consent Agenda:

All items were accepted as submitted.

Action and Discussion Items:

Review of Call Agreement Update: The original call agreement encourages Pastor Laura to fulfill her faithful management of a 20-25 hour work week. However, using the range of hours is creating too much confusion when it comes to determining the number of hours to be “banked”. As an example, this occurs if she works 15 hours in one week and needs to bank the remaining hours. The question is, does she bank 5 hours or 10 hours for future use. If she exceeds the 20-25 hours a week, then she uses the banked hours to cover it. In order to simplify this process, we discussed changing the Call Agreement to eliminate the range used for work hours per week. Karen made the motion to change the Call Agreement from the 20-25 hour work week to a 23 hour work week. Seconded by Lynn. Motion carried. Karen will update the Call Agreement to reflect this change.

All Board members were given a copy of the Ministries of the Church chart to review in advance of this meeting. This chart was prepared by a small group of Executive Board members including Pastor Laura, and was created as a comprehensive list of the ministries and duties to be carried out by the Pastor, Boards, Tech Team, church staff, committees, congregation and volunteers. There were no changes from the Board members concerning the chart at this time. However, the chart is a work in

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

progress and changes are expected to occur as duties are re-distributed from, for instance, the pastor to others listed above in order to keep the Pastor's hours within the revised Call Agreement. We will use this document to first of all, educate the Boards and then the congregation regarding the responsibilities that everyone will need to share. The Executive Board members serving on their individual Boards are asked to take the chart back to their members to discuss this information with them. It is also planned to share this at a congregational meeting in the near future.

Review of Procedures for Protestors/Disruptions During Worship:

Karen reviewed the recording of the Webinar, and determined that this was directed to the training and preparation of persons attending outside functions and events such as the Pride gathering and not relevant to persons coming into our church.

It was hoped that this would have been information which we would be able to utilize in the event an intruder interrupted the service with intent to cause harm to the congregation. It has been suggested that after the service has begun, the back door should be locked and a sign put on the door to use the front entrance after the service has begun. Mary Lou will check with the local authorities to learn if they can provide advice if we were confronted with a threatening event. She will also check with the Conference to see if they have any materials available to us. Chuck also volunteered to help with this endeavor.

Possible Bystander Training:

Kelly reached out to MSU and they do not offer off-campus training. She will be talking to a person from the "Rights To Be" team who have come highly recommended for this type of training. This is basically to teach ways to handle situations such as being a bystander to harassment or discrimination. This type of training may be beneficial to not only our congregation but also to the community. There is no information with regards to the cost, however this will be forthcoming. It was suggested that it may be best to have this at a slower time of the year such as sometime in February.

Bids for Grounds Work:

Kim has received two bids to remove the tree: One bid from R & Family Tree Service from Ionia, for \$1,500. They would remove the tree, grind up the stump, clean up and take everything away. The second bid, from Top Notch Tree Care from East Lansing, is \$184 less; however, there is no clean-up after stump grinding. Motion made by Fay, seconded by Kim to accept the \$1,500 bid from R & Family Tree Service with the funds coming from the General Budget. Motion passed.

Kim received a bid from Universal Design in Grand Ledge of \$1,440 to clean up the entire area which was created from the repair of the church sign. This would include adding rocks, rototilling and reseeding.

Mary Lou made the motion, seconded by Gary, to accept the bid from Universal Design with the funds coming from the General Budget. Motion passed.

Political Announcements on Sunday Morning:

This item has been tabled until the September meeting.

Personnel Issues, Email vote and Updates:

Termination of Nursery Caregiver:

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

The Nursery Caregiver, Nicole Finney, has been away without notice since May 8, 2022. Repeated attempts to contact her through a variety of methods has been unsuccessful. It was verified through sources that she and her family are well, which was an initial concern. As a result, the Personnel Team recommended that her services were no longer required. The Executive Board members voted by Email to follow the Personnel Team's recommendation to send her a certified letter to this affect. It was verified that the letter was picked up at the post office on Monday, August 22, 2022. Due to the current lack of children under the age of 5 who are attending worship, the Personnel Team is not planning to hire a replacement at this time. This position may be able to be filled with volunteers from the congregation. Leah will reach out to the Team and place an article in the Thursday Pause for Nursery Caregiver volunteers, and also process them through I-Chat (background check).

Summer Sunday school:

The subject of the Sunday school teacher to continue through the summer came up at a Christian Education meeting. Without recognition that this would have resulted in additional funds for this action, and the required protocol that it needed to be brought before the Executive Board for approval, the Christian Ed Board thought it was a good idea to have Demphna teach through the summer. Because we are only a couple of weeks before Sunday school is normally scheduled to begin again, we will let this ride. However, in the future if there is a desire to have this happen again during the summer, it would have to be brought before the Executive Board for approval.

Synod Delegate Nomination:

Pastor has received a nomination as a Synod Delegate to represent Michigan. This will be held in Indianapolis for one week next July, 2023. The week would not be counted as vacation time since her Call Agreement for her participation in the wider church includes paying her reasonable expenses for attendance and participation as a Synod delegate. The Pastor/Parish team has given its support for this endeavor. There is some funding available through the Synod. Karen made the motion to approve her participation as a Synod Delegate in July, 2023. Seconded by Kim. Motion passed.



Miscellaneous Updates:

Gas Cards:

Leah purchased the gift cards and plans to get together with Larry, Office Administrator, and go over the procedure for giving out these cards so that he understands the level of his responsibility.

Ceiling Fan Installation:

The fans have been on back order and the company now has given Bil Turner a tentative date of September 6. This could mean one of two things: This is either when they receive the fans or this is an actual delivery date. Leah asked Chuck if he would remind Brandon to have the appropriate cable available for installation.

Kids Hope Coordinator and Mentoring Program:

Leah reached out to the former coordinator from Emmanuel Lutheran and shared information. Leah and Sandy have gotten together to plan out the introduction of this program to the congregation on Sunday, September 18, as an informational opportunity presented to interested individuals following the service.

Update on the Internet Issues:

Leah spoke with David Gruner and David Wee about another computer and they both felt that the

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES (CONT.)

problems we are experiencing are not related to the computer. They believe it is a problem with Comcast. Pastor Laura has also experienced similar problems with their home computer. When contacted, Comcast explained that there is a problem with the modems which they are in the process of replacing.

New Business:

There was a discussion to showcase the activities of each of the Boards by preparing a display of this information by Rally Sunday on the bulletin boards located in the hallways. Leah will follow up on this.

Congregational Life talked about having coffee hour after church on the first Sunday of the month. On Rally Sunday, in honor of our new members, there will be cake, coffee, punch, cheese/crackers and a vegetable tray. There will be tables set up outside as well as inside. There is also a special coffee hour scheduled on October 9 in celebration of Darlene's retirement. Congregational Life Board also discussed abandoning the Trunk or Treat portion of Halloween observance and suggested changing to decorating pumpkins, serving cider and donuts and perhaps candy, instead of hot dogs, etc. People are welcome to wear their costumes if they wish. We could hold this on October 23 so that participants could have their decorated pumpkins to enjoy for the week leading up to Halloween. Christian Education and Congregational Life will work together on this event.

Lynn provided an update of the bed-build for children. We have 17 volunteers from our church. Emmanuel Church needed 40 volunteers and now have a total of 60. They are also taking donations of money and bedding items.

Kelly would like to put together, for accessibility issues, a social narrative and possibly a video walk-through of the building prior to Rally Sunday so that we have all the information needed to welcome people for Rally Sunday. She received favorable approval for this project.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Mary Lou Prevost, Church Clerk

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10am AA Women
2 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Book Reading in Choir Room after Service	3 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice	4 Congregators meetings, 1pm at Sophias	5 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	6 6pm Chancel Choir Practice	7	8 10am AA Women
9 9:00 Christian Ed Meeting 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service 11:45 AM Youth Event K-12	10 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice Sisters of Ruth, 12:30pm	11	12 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	13 6pm Chancel Choir Practice	14	15 10am AA Women
16 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Book Reading in Choir Room after Service	17 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice WGOD , 12pm Fellowship Hall	18	18 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	20 6pm Chancel Choir Practice	21	22 10am AA Women
23 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Congregational Life Pumpkin Decorating after worship. Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel	24 6:30PM Grand Ringers Practice	25 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	26 6pm AA 7:30pm AI-Anon 8pm AA	27 6pm Chancel Choir Practice	28	29
30 10:30am In-Person and Facebook Worship Service Book Reading in Choir Room after Service	31					

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DATE	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
THEME	Discerning God's Call	Worshipping God	Learning About God	No Knowing	Supporting God's People
TEXT	Genesis 2: 18-24 Ephesians 4:1-7& 11-13	Psalm 100 Colossians 3:14-17	Psalm 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3-chapter 4:5	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Acts 2:42-47
HEAD USHER	Lisa Reed	Fay Schroeder	Fay Schroeder	Chris Cypher	Gary Burt
GREETER	Pat Reed	Lynn Hart	Bil Turner	Gary Cypher	Kathy Burt
LITURGIST	Sue Sackett	Freida Schneeberger	Anita Caccagno	Marcia Kent	Bil Turner
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



October BIRTHDAYS

Judy Nielsen	2nd
Jane Gilson	2nd
Ben Banks	6th
Jim Robinson	7th
Charlynn Walker	14th
Gwen Knight	19th
Dave Gooley	28th



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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	1-2	STAFF Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage Larry Patterson Office Administrator Brandon Frost, Choir Director Carol Orsborn, Bell Choir Director Chuck Byam, Organist & Accompanist Rev. Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator Ben Sackett, Custodian Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus
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