

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

April 2019



April 14th
Palm/Passion Sunday
A Walk Through Holy Week

April 18th
Holy Thursday
Worship at 7 p.m.

April 19th
Good Friday
Community Service at Noon
at Life Bridge

April 21st
Easter Sunday Worship

(more details inside)

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Patty Gruber
Alice Warfield
William Brennen



Grieving

Family of Karl Barden,
husband of Novella

Family of Ed Bierhalter

Adopt-a-Days from March

March 6th, in memory of Sandy Popp, given by Sarah Campbell

March 31st, for good friends, from Joan Gruber

**Memorials given
In loving memory of
Karl Barden**

Ross & Cheri Stein
Ken & Libby Catt
Ken & Susan Wiltse
Jim & Diane Carter
Piedmont Carolina Nursery & Landscaping

Membership Anniversaries

Doyle Bingham, 65
Jeffrey Dick, 25
Lynn Dick, 25
Robert Gleason, 10
Kyle Gruber, 15
James Mears, 70
Sue Mears, 65
Adam Peterson, 15
Janice Peterson, 55
Chrystal Smith, 10
Aaron Strebeck, 10

April Worship

April 7th: Fifth Sunday in Lent “A Time for Every Matter”

"For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil."

– *Ecclesiastes 3:1-13*

For many of us in this modern, industrial, tech-savvy world, we have lost touch with the seasonality of life. We want what we want, when we want it. We come to believe that no time is off limits and the lines between busy and rest, work and play, have become increasingly blurred. How far are we from the rhythms and "pleasure of our toil?" What cost to ourselves, to our relationships, and to our planet is this frantic pace?

April 14th: Palm Sunday

Worship will begin with the Palm Sunday parade. His entrance is a reminder that he has been turning things upside down even in his own tradition, teaching new interpretations of Hebrew law and practices. He has shifted the thinking about what was truly important. People, not profit. Healing, not rule-keeping. Connecting, not appearances. To the status quo, he says, "give it a rest.... give them a rest."

At the beginning of Holy Week, what is Jesus inviting us to consider "giving it a rest?" Our scripture lesson is from Mark 2:21-28. We will hear Jesus say, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

We invite you to begin Holy Week worshiping with us.

April 18th: Holy Thursday worship at 7 p.m.

Gather around the table with Jesus and his disciples to remember the Last Supper. Worship will bring us to the table as well. All will be invited to gather in groups of 12 around the table at the front of the sanctuary for communion.

Our service will focus on the four basic elements of life: Air, Earth, Water and Fire. We will see how these four elements impact our journey through holy week.

The service will conclude with a look toward Good Friday and waiting for the dawn of Easter. Worship will be in the sanctuary.

April 19th Good Friday - Community Service at Noon at Life Bridge

April 21st: Easter Sunday Worship

Gather with family and friends at First Congregational Church, 651 Phoenix Street, in South Haven to celebrate the remembrance of the risen Lord. Bring out the brass and special music. Raise a new song! Let the light shine and smell the aroma of Spring. Put on your Easter bonnets and come gather to celebrate what the Lord has done. Easter is the defining element of the Christian Faith. It is a time for great joy and singing.

REJOICE, CHRIST IS RISEN

April 28th: Confirmation Sunday

We have a wonderful group of young adults who have been meeting all year, learning about God, Jesus, faith and the church. Come and celebrate their journey as they are confirmed and join the church on this Sunday.



HOP TO IT...IT'S SPRING RUMMAGE SALE TIME !!

Mark your calendars for May 1 and 2. Set up will be Sunday, April 28 after the confirmation reception. Tables, racks, and signs need to be set up and rummage brought up from the basement. When bringing rummage please

1. Wash and clean items
2. Pin clothing sets together
3. Bundle linens together and mark size, curtain lengths
4. Bag multiples or items with separate parts together
5. Indicate if electronics work or not
6. After Sunday, please place your items in the correct area.

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

**Any help is appreciated: sorting, arranging, hanging, folding, bundling toys and crafts, donations of lunch/snack items. Cashiers are needed both days for 1-2 hours. Clean up and packers are needed 2:45 on Thursday.

Sale dates and times are:

Wednesday, May 1, 4-7

Thursday, May 2,
9-11 normal prices
11:05-2:15 \$5 bag (*note increase*)
2:20-3 FREE

Anyone who helps gets first choice of incoming items! We have a good time.....come join us.

Call Kris Ayers for more info. 637-8762

***Training and uniforms provided at no charge and regardless of gender, age, politics, hair color, tattoos, fashion sense or lack of it, etc.*

South Haven Speaker Series

Thursday April 11th

Affordable Housing: Obstacles and Solutions
in Lake Shore Communities

Ryan Kilpatrick will present a look at longstanding public policy decisions contributing to the shortage of affordable housing choices in our communities. He will also offer some creative and encouraging solutions. This is an important conversation and one that as church members we should be more informed about.

This will be held at the Integrated Learning Center at South Haven High School at 7:30 p.m. A social time will begin at 6:45 p.m. There is a \$10 fee. Students and educators are free.

Dear
Youth
Group,



On behalf of the hundreds of animals that come to Al-Van Humane Society for shelter and care, the staff and board of directors thank you! Your generous donation of \$317 from your game night fundraiser has made such a difference. All funds raised will go directly to the day care of the animals at our no-kill animal shelter, at both our intake and isolation Center and our newly opened Adoption and Community Education Center. You're AWESOME!!

Thank you again for your support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Donna Zeppiero
Board President



CALLING ALL TRAVELERS

Many in our congregation have taken trips to interesting places. And many of us would like to hear about your travels. The CE board would like to have a show and tell of sorts in October with a meal while listening to a 10-15 min. presentation of your adventure. There will be a sign up sheet in August and more details to follow. Please contact Kris Ayers (artayers16@aol.com or 637.8762) if you want to sign up now or have questions.

Two new support positions have been created in the Southwest Association of the Michigan Conference effective March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020. Welcome!

Southwest Association Minister:
Rev. Calandra Nevenzel

The SWA Minister is a part time contract position that works to improve the connection and relationships between the Association and its pastors and congregations as well as the relationships between the churches of the association.

Southwest Association Search & Call Minister: Rev. Ruth Moerdyk

The SWA Search & Call Minister is a part time contract position that provides leadership to staff the Search & Call process in conjunction with the Michigan Conference. This minister is a resource and guide to Association churches who will be or are searching for a new pastor.

Have you seen the new artwork in Fellowship Hall?

These paintings depict a familiar Bible story. Do you know which one it might be? HINT: There are seven panels.

These pieces were painted in 1996 by Matthew Payovich, an artist who lives and work in St. Joseph, Michigan. Much of Matt's artwork is focused on Christian faith. He has been commissioned to do many portraits of Christian Saints, both by churches and individuals. Matt is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, Michigan and several of his pieces are on permanent display there.

The seven paintings, now in Fellowship Hall, were originally commissioned for the First Congregational Church in St. Joseph, where they were hung in the church library for many years. A recent building renovation project displaced these pieces, and the Building Committee at FCC/St. Joseph is the first recipient of their generosity.

NOTE: The "Seven Days" pieces are on loan to us for an indefinite period. They will be carefully removed, stored, and re-hung in Fellowship Hall after our Spring and Fall rummage sales.

Looking at April

Lay Assistant

Acolytes

7– Erin and Kyle Bos
14– Kitty Brennen
 Camborley Gleason
21– Liam Cochran
 Chloe McNicholas
28– Donnell Miller

Usher Captains:

Art Ayers and Nancy Daugherty

Nursery

7– Chris Valentine
 Camborley Gleason
14– Jim & Sue Mears
21– Theresa Gleason
 Chloe McNicholas
28– Jim & Sue Mears

Hospitality

7– Women's Fellowship
14– Men's Breakfast group
21– Christian Education
28– Diaconate

Financial Counters

7– Ted Guimond/Terry McGarr
14– Mike Nelson/Doug Gruber
21– Chris Valentine/Marcia Claggett
28– Patty Brennen/Jeff Reber

Birthdays

04/01 Jeff Muck
04/01 Larry Wittkop
04/01 Noah Saucedo
04/02 Kim Gruber
04/04 Christine Valentine
04/06 Jeff Reber
04/07 Sonny Garber
04/08 Jade Suhr
04/11 Elizabeth Brennen
04/14 Tammy Larson
04/15 Patty Gruber
04/15 Connor Cochran
04/16 Nancy Nelson
04/16 Karen Morey
04/18 Alan Lyon
04/18 Alex Davis
04/21 Michael Bos
04/21 Joy Church
04/22 Donald Arnott
04/22 Elian Garcia
04/23 Lola Ellis
04/26 Brandon Dick
04/27 Harley Ellis
04/30 Cate Frost
04/30 Marnie Frost



Anniversaries

04/04 Len & Debbie Walter
04/06 Doug & Patty Gruber
04/19 Bob & Shirley Sollman, 45th
04/23 Don & Marilyn Arnott
04/23 Tom Barczak & Dea Bishop

Diaconate Captains for April

Art Ayers

Nancy Daugherty