

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

February 2019



The Men's Fellowship is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb 2nd from 8 a.m. until Noon. This will be a benefit breakfast for building repairs, including at the parsonage. Breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, sausage and beverage.

This event is open to the public. So, invite your friends and neighbors. Help spread the word through e-mail.

Unafraid - A Five Week Study Group

Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. in the Lounge
beginning on February 5th

We know Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book Unafraid, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. We will learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope.

The book is available at the church (suggested donation of \$10 to \$15). It is also available online and as an e-book. The study group will include a short video segment, review of the book and group discussion. Pastor Dick will lead this group. If Tuesday afternoons don't work, Pastor Dick would offer a second time to meet.

"Them: Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal", will be the book for the upcoming **Book Study** that will be held at the home of Art & Kris Ayers, 612 Kalamazoo St. The book is written by Ben Sasse.

The group begins meeting Sunday, February 3rd at 2 p.m.

Contact the Ayers at 637-8762.

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Glenn Pietenpol
Karl Barden
Patty Gruber



Thank you

ADOPT-A- DAY

January 21st

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, given by Women's Fellowship

Thank you to the Wednesday Men's Breakfast crew who came over and helped undecorate the church after Christmas. Many thanks to Barb and Larry Wittkop for decorating and undecorating the lounge.

Thank you to Ted Guimond and Dave Murphey for the fantastic repair work and painting in the lower hallway by the boiler room. This wall experienced water damage and the repair work makes it so you would not know it happened.

Thanks to all who came and did a clean up in the sacristy. The cabinets needed cleaning.



WORSHIP

February 3rd - The Power of God's Word and Communion

Luke 4:21-30 is the focus scripture and the theme is The Power of God's Word. Communion will be celebrated.

February 10th: Scout Sunday and Being Surprised

Boy and Girl Scouts will help to lead our worship service this morning. It will begin with a flag procession, the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening song. Scouts will serve as ushers, greeters, Lay Assistant and readers. All Scouts in attendance will receive a special patch for the day.

Many special recognitions will be celebrated this Sunday. A new Scout troop for girls has begun here at the church. This will be their first official event. We will celebrate the God and Country achievements of a number of our scouts. We will recognize the most recent Eagle Scouts in our congregation, including Zachary Hanner, Yamil Garcia and Joe Nelson.

The scripture passage for this day is from Luke 5:1-11 and the theme is Being Surprised.

February 17: Being Blessed

To be blessed is to be given a gift unexpectedly and without strings. The passages for this Sunday show us the unique status that being blessed is for human beings. A blessing can change the core of who we are. You are blessed.

February 24th: Be Holy

What does it mean to be holy? Jesus gives some examples in our reading for today in Luke 6:27-38. It means to love your enemy, to show mercy, to turn the other cheek and to do to others as you would have them do to

you. We will explore this at the Adult Class and in worship.

March 3rd: Transfiguration and Living in Glory

Jesus performs three actions in the account of his transfiguration in Luke 9:28-43. He reveals the glory of his true self, rebukes his closest students for their narrow-sightedness and half-heartedness, extends himself with compassion.

These three actions are the actions Christ offers as the path of faith: Accept the glory. Open up our minds and senses. Extend compassion. Glory. Openness. Compassion. "And all were astounded by the greatness of God"

Looking Ahead to Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is March 6th. Members of our confirmation Class will be leading the Ash Wednesday service to be held here at the church at 7 p.m.



Ringling Chimes at Church School

Children will learn to play some songs on hand chimes during Church School in February. Ann Habicht will be teaching the children on Feb 3rd, 10th and 17th. On the 17th, the children will provide the special music during worship.

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, Feb 24th, the Confirmation Class will hold a retreat beginning at the church. Youth will be learning about communion, grace, forgiveness and Lent. They will then work on the Ash Wednesday service that they will be leading in March. After a time of learning and work, they will head out for some team building fun.



Cub Scout Pinewood Derby

This will be held on Sunday, Feb 10th at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come and watch.

Parsonage Update

Back in the fall, a home inspection of the parsonage was performed by Deryck Gruber, who is with Guardian Home Inspection Services, LLC. Deryck is also a member of the church and we thank him for this very thorough inspection that he completed (a 60 some page report is available in the office.)

As a result of this inspection, a number of projects are underway. Some electrical work has been performed by Phil Clemons, who attends here. Dave Murphey performed some repair work in the kitchen and basement.

Furnace repair work is underway and just recently, some asbestos was removed from some of the heating ducts. There will be a number of outdoor projects come spring and volunteers to assist with that will be needed. Many thanks to all who are working on these projects.

Women's Fellowship

Happy New Year to everyone!!! Women's fellowship is looking for all the great Arts and Crafts women in and outside of our church family. We have metamorphosed the Material Aids group to the new Artistic Expressions of Faith group. Margaret Guimond and Denise Muck are the contacts for more detailed information.

We are planning on Meeting on every Wednesday at 9:00 AM following the Women's Breakfast (Come join us at 6 Chix at 8:00am for breakfast). The second Wednesday of each month will be the business meeting as usual and the other Wednesdays we will meet to work on projects for charities. Bring your needle work to any meeting!!! January 16th will be the first meeting to plan and discuss the first project.

We are currently going to begin working on small strip quilts to provide for children in need of comfort. There will be a box in the Narthex for anyone to drop off donations of materials. We are looking for 100% cotton prints appropriate for quilting and/or flannels for the Children's quilts. Any batting will be appreciated also.

We Hope to be making another quilt for the Van Buren Domestic Violence Coalition for their annual fund raiser. Last year's quilt was a great hit and was appreciated very much! I will be checking with them for theme information for future reference.

There are more events in the works. We are planning some evening activities and looking forward to everyone's input.

-Denise Muck

Middle and High School Youth—Come have fun with us!

A tentative schedule for the Saturday, February 9th Day of Activity/overnighter.

12:30 pm - Meet at church

1:00 - 2:30 - Tour of Al-Van Humane Society

2:30 - 4:30 - Collect and turn in pop cans for Humane Society

4:30 - 5:30 - Dinner

5:30 - 6:00 - Set up for Game Night Fundraiser for Al-Van

6:00 - 9:00 - Game night activities

9:00 - 11:00 - Nighttime Scavenger Hunt

11:00 - ? - Sardines, games, movies, maybe a little sleeping

8:30 - 9:30 am - Get up, clean up, breakfast

9:30 - 10:30 am - Prep power point presentation of our Activity Day Activities



Parents or youth questions for me, give me a call or e-mail me.

THANKS!

Rick Olsen
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Looking at February

Lay Assistant

Acolyte

Ushers

Nursery

- 3– Laura Bos
Erin Bos
- 10– Sue Murphey
Kitty Brenne
- 17– Karen Morey
Elian Garcia
- 24– Terry & Keri McGarr

Hospitality

- 3– Missions board
- 10– Diaconate board
- 17– Men's breakfast group
- 24– Women's Fellowship

Financial Counters

- 3– Mike Nelson
Jeff Reber
- 10– Chris Valentine
Wes Stephens
- 17– Patty Brennen
Dave Daugherty
- 24– Ted Guimond
Terry McGarr

Diaconate Members for the Month

Philip Rood

Celeste Wheeler

Birthdays

- 02/06 Carolyn Willobee
- 02/10 Skylar Garber
- 02/11 Meghan Ellis
- 02/12 Lillian Jones
- 02/13 Jacquelyn Bennett
- 02/14 Paul Rood
- 02/15 John Long
- 02/18 Sophia Cochran
- 02/24 Kady Hoyt
- 02/25 Robert Sollman
- 02/25 Bob Gabel
- 02/25 Chloe McNicholas
- 02/26 Elaine Kitchin
- 02/28 Darlene Long

Anniversaries

- 02/06 Chuck & Nancy Garber

