

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

February 2020

Introducing our New Associate Pastor

At the January Council meeting, the Reverend Michael Tupper was officially called to begin serving in ministry here. He will start by working 10 - 13 hours a week. Come May, he will be working 20 hours a week. During February, March and April, Mike will not be here on Sunday mornings as he will continue serving the church he is currently at. Beginning in May he will be here many Sunday mornings. Mike will be at worship on February 2nd.



Mike has been a pastor for over 38 years. He has served in eight churches including the Casco United Methodist Church (north of South Haven). Presently he is the Co-Pastor of the Gull Lake United Methodist Church in Richland, Michigan.

Mike and his wife Lori have been married for over forty years. Lori has been a schoolteacher and church administrative assistant and writer. She has published two books. They live in Lawrence, Michigan near Lake Cora. Mike likes to paddle his kayak on

this lake (even during the winter).

Mike and Lori have two children. They are both 33 years old and attended school at Lincoln Elementary, Central Late Elementary, and Baseline Middle School. Sarah is married to Ali and have a new baby named Saima (Mike and Lori's first grandchild!). Sarah has been a schoolteacher but is now the Associate Pastor at the North Baltimore Mennonite Church. Scott lives in Boston and works for the MIT Defense Laboratory.

Mike is transferring his ministerial credentials from the United Methodist Church to the United Church of Christ.

"I look forward to getting to know you and being one of your pastors. It will be a privilege to work alongside Jeffrey Dick."

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

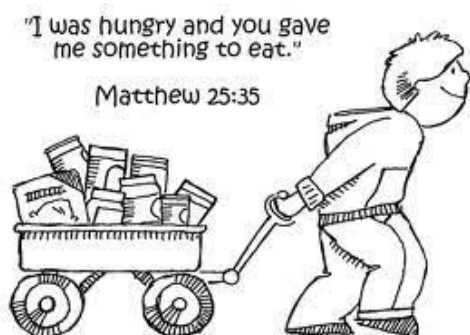
Juanita Wellever
Dave Murphey
Rick Siler
Irene Wiens—Arizona

Al Lyon
Rick Olsen
Steve Siler



Grieving

Family of Carol Malcheff—
Shirley Sollman's sister



February is our month to supply the We Care Food Pantry. Items should be imperishable. Here are some suggestions:

Canned vegetables	Tuna
Canned fruit	Cereal
Pasta noodles	Soups
Spaghetti sauce (cans)	Peanut butter
Mac n' Cheese	Pork & beans

Your donations can be brought to church on Sunday or during the week to the office wing.

Food Pantry 2019 Report

The We Care Food Pantry had another busy year in 2019. Along with serving 1,785 families (of 4,916 people) during normal hours, we sponsored four Feeding America Mobile Food Trucks and gave out over one hundred holiday meal baskets. We could not have done this without the generous donations of money and food from the people of the South Haven area.

Our success is due in large measure to the dedication of our volunteer staff. Volunteers Don Kitchin, Kay Mielke, Sue Murphey, Linda Olson, Ann Raue, Cathy Siler, Terry Tatsch, Carol Tidwell, and Chris Valentine have given countless hours of service to the pantry. Two longtime volunteers, Roger Post and Joan Gruber, retired after many years of service. The pantry suffered a very unexpected loss of volunteer Shirlee Clark, who died the end of December. These three were valued members of our staff and will be greatly missed. Many other people have stepped up to help when needed. We thank them all.

WORSHIP

February 2nd—Communion and Welcome New Staff Member

We begin February with celebrations. The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated and we will welcome our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Mike Tupper to our community.

The Hand Bell Choir will provide special music.

The scripture lesson is from Matthew 5:1-12
- the Beatitudes

February 9th—Scout Sunday

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.

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20: We are salt and light

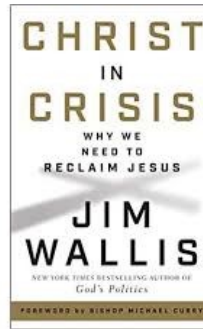
February—16th

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-37 - Jesus challenges each of us about how we are to behave as a people of God. There is no small standard here. The bar is set high.

February 23rd—Transfiguration

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9 - transfiguration of Jesus

March 1st—Communion



Book study in February

In “Christ in Crisis”, Christian activist Jim Wallis argues that our cultural and political crisis largely stems from how the American church has become disconnected from the teachings of Jesus Christ. He points to eight radical questions central to Jesus’ teaching: the Neighbor Question, the Image Question, the Truth Question, the Power Question, the Fear Question, the Caesar Question, the Peacemaker Question, and the Discipleship Question.

By asking ourselves these questions, we can measure whether we are thinking and acting “in Jesus’ name.” He reveals how following the teachings of Jesus emboldens and empowers us to “be not afraid”, but to act in courage and hope.

Dates for this study are: February 16, 23 and March 1st.

Looking Ahead to Lent

Ash Wednesday - February 26th

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 26th. There will be two services on Ash Wednesday that we are invited to attend. Pastor Dick will be at both of these services. *There will not be a service here.*

NOON: First United Methodist Church
7PM: Peace Lutheran Church
on Blue Star Highway

Ashes to Go! In addition to these two services, Pastor Travis Wilson and Pastor Dick will offer a drive thru Ash Wednesday service from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. here in the parking lot of the church. People who might not be able to attend one of the services can drive into

the parking lot and pull up to the front doors. One of the pastors will walk up to their car, offer a short prayer and then offer them ashes on their forehead in the sign of the cross. We will also ask if they have any prayer requests.

If we can find some helpers, we might also offer free coffee.

Watch for more information. If you would like to help, let Pastor Dick know.



Middle and High School Youth Come have fun with us!

All Church Game Night Saturday, Feb. 22nd

Come and beat the winter blues and get the old adrenaline flowing. On the evening of Saturday, February 22nd the Middle High/High School Church School Class will be sponsoring a game night at the church. The games will begin at 6:00 pm and continue through 8:30 pm. Games will include classic board games, video games, trivia contests and much more. Bring your own favorite game or play from the games provided. Match wits with crafty old farts or sneaky youngsters. There will be prizes for winners although everyone who participates is a winner. Refreshments will also be provided for winners and losers alike. Be there or Be square.



Please come help!
February 22-28

Contacts

Mike Nelson 214-6846
Bob Linderman 214-2550

Communion Bread

The Diaconate wants everyone to feel welcomed at communion. Because a number of people can not have gluten, all of the bread at communion has become gluten free.

We recently held a taste test on various breads. A large number of people cast their votes. The results are as follows:

Bread	1st choice	2nd choice
Aldi's White	0	5
Aldi's Whole Grain	1	2
Meijer Canyon Bakehouse		
Mountain White	18	2
Meijer White	0	3
Saunders Vegan	5	5
Saunders Sour Dough	2	6

Therefore the bread used for communion will be the Meijer Canyon Bakehouse Mountain White. Thank you for your response.

Thank you's

Rev, Jeffrey Dick & others -

Thank you so very much for your help with our luminary event over Thanksgiving weekend. It wouldn't have been as smooth without your help packing and placing of luminaries and use of your church.

Thank you,
Cari Copi
Caring Circle



Thank you for your loving heart and your helping hands. Thank you for the donation.

-Wide Awake, UCC

Send Some Sweetness to the Ones You Love!!!!

On Saturday, February 22nd the Middle High/High School Church School Class will bake, package and deliver "cookiegrams" (a dozen cookies) to the special people and organizations in your life. There is nothing like the sweetness of cookies to touch the hearts and taste buds of those who mean the most in your life.

Students will be collecting orders throughout February. Each "Cookiegram" is \$5.00. Deliveries of the cookies will be on the afternoon of Saturday, February 22nd as part of the Youth's Day of Ministry. To place an order for a cookiegram fill out the form below and turn into the church office or any of the MH/HS Church School class students. Orders can be phoned in to 269-910-6872 (Rick Olsen).

Cookiegram 2020

Name, Phone Number of Cookie Purchaser _____

Name, Address, Phone Number of Cookie Recipient _____

Time of Delivery (if necessary) _____

Message to be included with Cookiegram: _____

Type and Number of Cookies:

Chocolate Chip _____

Oatmeal _____

Sugar Cookie _____

Molasses _____

Triple Chocolate Chip _____

Student Signature _____

Dear Friends,

Due to the violent climate in Haiti, we were unable to host our annual Christmas party for the surrounding communities at The Good Shepherd Orphanage this year. However, we still prepared a nice meal for the residents with disabilities who live nearby to keep the Christmas spirit alive.

Despite the absence of our usual Christmas celebration, the greatest Christmas gift came from YOU this holiday season. A couple months ago, we shared with you our need for a food container that costs approximately \$15,000 to supply 272,160 well-balanced meals (called "Manna Packs") to feed our boys, as well as the families in the surrounding community. Well, when the Lord says, "Ask and it will be given to you," He means it! Immediately following that request, there was an outpouring of giving like we have never seen before. The Manna Packs are specially formulated by nutritionists to provide essential carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, and minerals. These packets form the central component of daily meals, but they are also designed to be supplemented with fresh fruits and vegetables. Because of your tremendous generosity, we were able to pay for the container, AND have enough funds to buy daily local groceries for months to come! We will even have additional funds to put towards a second container when that time comes! Your generous support has overwhelmed us with such love that we can barely comprehend the fullness of it. It is not an exaggeration when we say hundreds of lives will be touched because of this. We will be forever grateful to you. Thank you for carrying us through these difficult times. We truly cannot thank you enough. The food container has been shipped and is en route to us now. We will send photos the day it arrives and is unpacked to share the joy of receiving this gift with you!

God is clearly the supplier of our needs, and He has been so faithful to us for the past 57 years since Papa Cassy started this ministry. We will continue to trust Him no matter what is happening around us. You have been one of the sources of His goodness to us, and we are deeply blessed by your love!



Food Truck being loaded in Schaumburg, IL

Looking at February

Lay Assistant

2– Camborley Gleason
9– Scout
16– Laura Bos
23– Doug Gruber

Usher Captains:

Celeste Wheeler and Philip Rood

Nursery

2– Laura Bos +
9– Theresa Gleason
Camborley Gleason
16– Terri Wakild
Chloe McNicholas
23– Sue & Dave Murphey

Hospitality

2– the Trustees board
9– the Diaconate board
16– Philip Rood
23– Ann & Scott Raue

Financial Counters

2– Aaron Strebeck
Chris Valentine
9– Ted Guimond
Dave Daugherty
16– Scott Raue
Doug Gruber
23– Ken McNicholas
Jeff Reber

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
02/18 Chris Arms
02/18 Sophia Cochran
02/24 Kady Hoyt
02/25 Robert Sollman
02/25 Bob Gabel
02/25 Chloe McNicholas
02/26 Elaine Kitchin



Anniversaries

02/06 Chuck & Nancy Garber
50th Anniversary

Diaconate Members for the Month

Philip Rood

Celeste Wheeler