

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

April 2018

## Benefit Pancake Breakfast at FCC

Hosted by the youth of  
First Congregational Church

Sunday, April 15th, 8 am–Noon

Proceeds will help fund the church  
youth Mission Trip



FUNDRAISER

*(To the tune of Jingle Bells)*

Rummage time, rummage time  
Rummage time is here!  
Oh, what fun it is to clean  
And sort unwanted gear. OH!  
New days, new times.  
We'll give it a try  
Please note them down below.  
Come lend a hand whenever you can.  
We'll be done before you know. HEY!

## SPRING



Sale begins  
Wed. April 25 from 4-7 pm.  
Regular prices

Thurs. April 26 from 9-  
12:30. Regular prices

From 1-4 \$4 bag

From 4-5 FREE

*NOTE : NO FRIDAY SALE*

WOW, it's that time again. Set up is after church on April 22 until about 2 pm, Mon and Tues 9-3, and Wed am. Just drop in and help out for however much time you choose. Donations will be accepted until noon on Tues. Call if you need help bringing in.

Items should be CLEAN, pin sets together, note sheet, spreads, curtains, blanket sizes and bundle. Indicate if electronics work. Identify "mystery" items.

**5:00 clean up HELP NEEDED TO pack and transport  
CASHIERS NEEDED BOTH DAYS**

**Hitch up your sleigh and pack it today! Call Kris Ayers 637.8762 for more info.**

*Prayers for continued healing of our church family:*

Steven Siler  
Carolyn Willobee  
David Henry  
Jackie Protheroe—mother of Peggy McClendon



American Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
April 5, 2018

Noon—6 p.m.

at St. Basil Catholic  
Church

**Special Birthday**

Don Arnott will be turning 90 years young on April 22nd. Not only that, Don and Marilyn's wedding anniversary is the very next day, April 23rd. They will have been married for 63 years.

Wishing you a wonderful April filled with joy and beautiful memories of years gone by.

*Their home address is:*  
1309 Monroe Blvd.  
South Haven, MI 49090

**Adopt-a-Days from March**

**March 10th**, in memory of Breeana Wakild, given by Terri Wakild

**March 18th**, celebrating the U of M runners for their Race Across Michigan, given by Jeffrey Dick

**March 20th**, in celebration of the first day of Spring, given by Ted & Margaret Guimond

**March 25th**, in honor of our son's birthday, given by John & Sue Gillett

**March 28th**, in memory of Floyd Hoag in celebration of his birthday, given by Rick Siler and Cathy Hoag Siler

**March 28th**, in celebration of Ted Guimond's birthday, given by Margaret Guimond

## April Worship

### April 1st: Easter

Easter is on April Fools Day - No kidding. Our celebration will be joyous and festive and remind us of our theme of Lovers and Fools. The Apostle Paul calls us to be fools for Christ. To celebrate and be alive.

Festive music will fill the sanctuary. Our focus scripture is from John 20:1-8.

Following worship, an Easter egg hunt for all ages will take place.

**Jesus is risen! Rejoice!**

### April 8th: Sunday after Easter - Communion

**Love Is a Response to Grace** is our theme for this Sunday. The focus scripture is from John 20:19-31.

We will celebrate with communion during worship.

April 15th - Love Means Showing Up is our theme and Luke 24:36b-48 is our focus scripture.

### April 22nd—High School youth to lead worship

Loving one another as we are all children of God will be part of the focus of this service lead by our High School Youth.

April 29th - Love Abides is our theme as Jesus invites us to abide in him. Read John 15:1-8.

## Thank You So Much

To all of you, what a blessing you are to us at the Personal Care Pantry. Your wonderful donations that you have brought to us will certainly help many families in need. Thank you so much for your generous support to the pantry!

God bless, Marion Abernathy  
Coodinator of Personal Care Pantry



I'm again collecting your wishes concerning handbells in worship. There is still time to consider options, make plans, change our minds, start over, etc. Please find a way to get your message to me: email, phone call, carrier pigeon, a passed note, rumor campaign, etc.

Remember, wishes spoken aloud lead to ideas, then intentions, on to actions, participation and collaboration. Finally, we get MUSIC.

Give voices to your wishes!

Thanks, Ann Habicht  
ahabicht@rocketmail.com  
637-1278

**Congratulations** to Madison Nelson on being accepted into the Michigan State University Athletic Training Program! The application process is both rigorous and competitive, with space limited to around 15 new students per year.

Madi spent numerous hours over the last year in clinical observations with MSU baseball, tennis, soccer, wrestling and football teams.

Way to go Madi!

In March I attended two different wider church events with members from this church. The first was at the River of Joy church in Wyoming, MI. This is a new church start. The event we attended was to announce that they were a Sanctuary Church.



Our Mission Board and some members of the church donated money in December to purchase a bunk bed for the church. They now have eight beds, a shower and some other items to provide for families and individuals who might need to stay there.

The church has made a public stand that they are holy ground and people need to feel safe there. Speaking at the event were many clergy, national staff from our denomination, an immigration lawyer and a young college student who was brought here as a young child by his parents. He is concerned that he will be forced to leave the only country he has known. His speech was very moving.

The second event was the March for Our Lives rally in Douglas, Michigan. Again, a number of us from the church participated. The day began at the Douglas United Church of Christ. It was standing room only at this sister church. There were speakers and many musicians. There was a time for singing and prayers. Students from Saugatuck Schools spoke as well. These student speakers offered some very moving testimonies about their concerns and a desire to make all people safe. They spoke of the need for legislation to put restrictions on gun ownership.

After the gathering at the church, we joined some 400 people who were marching. People came from Douglas, Saugatuck, Holland, South Haven and other communities to express concern about gun violence.

Both of these events spoke to me of what it means to be faithful in following Jesus. That both events took place so close to Holy Week, reminded me of the very difficult walk that Jesus took on our behalf. We are called to follow Jesus. Called to walk with him. To do so, often means making difficult decisions.

In addition to the two events listed above, I have been working with our high school youth as they look at issues of prejudice and bigotry. They will present a sermon on this in April. I attended a presentation by Matthew Desmond, author of the book, Evicted. Powerful stories of people living in poverty and housing issues.

Sanctuary, immigration, prejudice, bigotry, gun violence, housing and poverty - these are just some of the difficult issues facing us as a nation. How do we decide how to live out our faith in these days? Are we willing to have some discussions about the many issues being raised in our nation? What place does faith play in these discussions? I would welcome having these discussions; in small groups, one on one, after worship or mid-week. Let me know if you would like to be a part of these conversations.

Blessings,  
Jeffrey

## Neighbors helping Neighbors

The Mission Board has started a new program entitled "Neighbors helping Neighbors". If you or someone you know needs help with small jobs, shopping, lawn care, getting to doctor appointments, etc. and have no one to help them, please let a member of the Mission Board know. If it is a larger job such as painting, light construction, we will need to set a date and get the proper help lined up.

**We recently were able to help two single women with snow shoveling, painting and minor repair.**

*Mission Board members: Patty Gruber, Nancy Garber, Dave Murphy, Theresa Gleason, Louise Wepfer, Beth Keithly and Shirley Sollman*

## Gather at the Table

Five dinners took place in March. Conversations were lively and productive. More dinners could take place. A report on these conversations was shared at the March Council meeting. If you would like a copy of the summary contact the office.

The 3 ?'s asked at dinners were:

*Question 1* – What do you love about First Congregational Church? –

*Question 2* – What is your hope / dream or vision for this church in the next 3-5 years?

*Question 3* – The church has \$30,000 – how or where should we spend this money?

If you were unable to attend you can send your response to the office.

Council will review these in April and a report to the congregation will be made.

## Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went  
The Lamb was sure to go.  
He followed her to school eacy day,  
Twasn't even in the rule.  
He made the children laugh and play,  
To have a Lamb at school.  
And then the rules all changed on day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to school,  
Or even speak his Name.  
Everyday got worse and worse,  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.  
What must we do to stop the crime,  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,  
And teach our kids to pray!

*-shared by Shirley Sollman*



## Easter Flowers

In loving memory of...

*...Wendell Wilkins and  
Richard E. & Carole Olsen,  
from Rick & Linda Olsen*  
*...Karen K. Cooper,  
from Rev. David G. Cooper*  
*...our loved ones,  
from Tom & Abby Larson*  
*...Richard Wheeler,  
from Celeste Wheeler & Morey family*  
*...Charles Stein,  
from Jean Stein and family*  
*...Breeana Wakild,  
from Matt & Tammy Larson*  
*...Bill & Helen DeVries, Billy DeVries,  
Neil Valentine, Phyllis Valentine  
from Christine Valentine*  
*...Gilbert Larson,  
from Matt & Tammy Larson*  
*...Bob Pulliam,  
from Terri Wakild*  
*...Cliff and Irene Williamson,  
from Matt & Tammy Larson*  
*...Mike & Elaine Arms,  
from Craig & Chris Arms*

In honor

*...of our family,  
from Chuck & Nancy Garber*  
*...Bob & Nancy Drahos  
from Craig & Chris Arms*







# Looking at April

## Lay Assistant

1– Jeff Reber  
8– Larry Wittkop  
15– Don Kitchin  
22– Youth  
29– Art Ayers

## Acolytes

1– Kitty Brennen  
    Camborley Gleason  
8– Lauryn Daugherty  
    Sydney Daugherty  
15– Erin Bos  
    Kyle Bos  
22– Ben Meyer  
    Jake Meyer  
29–Camborley Gleason  
    Chloe McNicholas

## Ushers

1– Jeff Muck and  
    Dave Murphey  
8– Art & Kris Ayers  
15– Dave & Nancy Daugherty  
22– High School youth  
29– Don & Elaine Kitchin

Nursery (sign up in the Narthex)

Hospitality (sign up in the Narthex)

15– Jeff & Denise Muck

## Financial Counters

1– Mike Nelson  
    Jeff Reber  
8– Chris Valentine  
    Wes Stephens  
15– Aaron Strebeck  
    Dave Daugherty  
22– Patty Brennen  
    Marcia Claggett  
29– Ted Guimond  
    Terry McGarr

## 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  
04/11 Jared Hentschel  
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–30th  
04/19 Bob & Shirley Sollman  
04/23 Don & Marilyn Arnott  
04/23 Tom Barczak & Dea Bishop–35th



