

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

January 2018

Martin Luther King, Jr. - Day of Community Service

Monday - Jan 15 - 10 am to noon
LC Mohr High School



A day of community service where individuals and groups will come and help to package a ton of rice and beans for area food pantries. A lunch will follow in the cafeteria. Contact Pastor Dick if you would like to help. Boy Scouts from Troop 188 will be helping with the collection of canned goods and delivering the rice.

As a part of the day of service, people are invited to donate canned goods for the We Care Pantries. Even if you can't come and work, help stock the food pantry with your donation this day.

January Worship

January 7th—Epiphany Sunday - we will explore the story of the Magi as found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2. We will sing the Christmas Carol, “We Three Kings”. On this first Sunday of the new year, we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

January 14th—Guest Minister - The Rev. Mary Kay Schueneman will be preaching as a neutral pulpit for one of our sister churches. We want to create a warm welcome for her and the people coming to hear her preach. Pastor Dick will be assisting with the service that morning.

January 21st— We begin a series of four Sundays of reading from the Gospel of Mark. This week it is of Jesus calling his disciples. Mark 1:14-20

January 28th—Jesus introduces what he is going to do. Mark 1: 21-28

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Tom Whale
Joy Church
Tom Fritz
David Henry
Dea Bishop



Grieving

The family of Walter Pilditch

Offering Envelopes for 2018 are in the Narthex

Please pick up your packet. The envelopes are in alphabetical order.

If you don't see your name and would like a packet please contact Carolyn Willobee or the church office.

Would you like to have your offering taken automatically from your account so you won't forget? It's very easy. Contact the church office for a form to fill out, take it to your bank, Done!

A donation was given to the Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) from Tom Ruesink, in memory of his grandfather Clark, who was missing in Turkey in 1900-1943.

Membership Anniversary

Dixie Capps
65 years

Louise Wepfer
25 years



CHRISTMAS EVE HELPERS

Advent and Christmas Helpers

Many individuals have made our Advent and Christmas here at First Congregational Church meaningful and blessed.

The many members of the church, including the Men's Breakfast Group and the Diaconate who decorated the church, it looks wonderful.

Christmas Eve was a joyous and festive occasion. Worship included many out of town people visiting their families and seeing whole pews filled with one family is always such a joy.

Many thanks to all who helped with the service, our ushers, to Scott and Ann Raue for assembling the individual candles. Camborley Gleason and Katherine Brennen served as acolytes that evening.

Our choir, with Patricia Kerr on piano, organ and directing, sounded wonderful. Nathan Morey and Joseph Nelson were on drums, Adam Peterson on trumpet and William Brennen of baritone saxophone. We also had a special guest at the 10:30 service (see Patricia's note on that).

Madi Nelson in assisting with the morning service. Readers at the evening service were Joe Nelson, Jeff Reber, Lynn Gabel, Nancy Garber, and Madi Nelson.



Thank
You

Christmas Offerings

Financial gifts to the church to support its ministry and missions were amazing this Christmas. Gifts to the **Christmas Fund** (formerly known as Veterans of the Cross) totaled \$ 270. These funds are used to support retired pastors, many who served small churches and have small pensions. Some funds are used in emergency situations for these former church workers.

The Christmas offering this year was designated to be split between our own Food Pantry and the General Fund (which provides the building and utilities for the Pantry). This offering so far has **totaled \$ 1,858!** What a Christmas blessing. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Ringers Alert!

We miss our snowbirds, but we want to keep ringing! Warmer climates, distant relatives and seasonal travels are calling our handbell ringers away. Can you join us to make music on Sunday mornings?

We practice at 9:00 am in the lower basement. Regular attendance is highly valued (Jan 7 - 14- 21-28); reading music is just a bonus.

Follow the sound of bells and laughter, and come prepare for worship in this special way.

-Ann Habicht

Women's Fellowship



Eleven women gathered to pack and deliver Christmas treats to our shut ins, then enjoyed the leftovers while singing carols. Thank you Mary, Karen and Sue.

We have been having lots of fun at our meetings and activities, so we have gotten behind in our business. We will have a business meeting on Thursday Jan 25, at 11 a.m.

January activities;
Continue working on the archives. If you can help contact Kris Ayers.

If you can help with sewing contact Margaret Guimond.

Hope to see you at these activities!

During the season of Advent there's a lot of practice, practice, practice! We had several people helping out to make the Christmas services exciting. Many thanks to the choir members who worked tirelessly to achieve perfection! Special thanks to Janice Peterson, Adam Peterson and Nancy Nelson who volunteered for solos.

For the morning service on Christmas Eve, we had a special treat--a student of mine, Sunnie Krohm, came to sing a solo called "Innkeeper". The teens stepped up to the plate for the Christmas Eve service--Adam on trumpet, William on baritone sax, and Joe Nelson and Nate on percussion.

After Christmas, Alex Davis is coming to play on an Epiphany carol with the choir.

Blessings of the season to all!
Patricia Kerr
Music Director

Diaconate News

The Diaconate will be meeting every other month, beginning in January. They will be planning worship for a couple of a months at a time. Individuals are always welcome to attend their meetings and offering suggestions and help throughout the year. Their January meeting will be on January 2nd.

Advent Study Group

Twenty people attended one of two study groups during Advent where we looked at C. S. Lewis' book, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. There were good discussions and a desire to meet again during Lent. If you have ideas on what we should study next, please let Pastor Dick know.

New study groups or fellowship groups can begin at any time.

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your gift of \$ 835.00 received on 12/14/2017 to support Hurricane 2017 Relief Efforts, designated for Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. Your donation will help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes. We are asking for prayers for everyone impacted by the storms, and for your continued support as the long-term recovery take shape.

On behalf of the United Church of Christ, thank you! Thank you for being inspired by God's grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and united with us to build a just world for all.

Faithfully,
Mary A. Paxton
Director, Office of Philanthropy
and Stewardship

Looking at January

Lay Assistant

7– Susan Murphey
14– Laura Bos
21– Art Ayers
28– Don Kitchin

Acolyte

7– Sydney Daugherty
 Lauryn Daugherty
14– Ben Meyer and Jake Meyer
21– Kyle Bos and Kyle Bos
28– Kitty Brennen and
 Chloe McNicholas

Ushers

Deacon of the month:
 Alice Warfield

Nursery (sign up in the Narthex)

Hospitality (sign up in the Narthex)

Financial Counters

7– Patti Brennen
 Marcia Claggett
14– Ted Guimond
 Terry McGarr
21– Mike Nelson
 Jeff Reber
28– Chris Valentine
 Wes Stephens

Birthdays

01/03 Carey Frost
01/04 Theresa Gleason
01/05 Caroline Meyer
01/07 David Daugherty
01/08 Kris Ayers
01/08 Cathy Siler
01/12 Alice Warfield
01/21 Philip Rood
01/22 Terry Tatsch
01/22 Joseph Nelson
01/23 Ed Bierhalter
01/23 Tony Martorano
01/28 Megan Larson



Anniversaries

01/04 Art & Kris Ayers
01/27 Scott & Ann Raue



Please come help!

January 6-12th

Contacts

Mike Nelson 214-6846
Bob Linderman 214-2550