

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

May 2018

Membership Anniversaries in the month of May

-5- years

Sarah Campbell
Dianne Cox
Michael Crews
Morgan Dickens
Jessical Hentschel
Michael Hoyt

-10- years

Alex Davis
Hannah Lyon

-25- years

Joy Church
Jason Popp

-35- years

Susan Meyer

What does it mean when you become a member of a Church?

Coming to church on Sundays is fine. But when you want to deepen your faith and commitment to the church, and church family, what do you do? Look into becoming an official member of the church.

When we receive members into the church the congregation as a whole recites the following:

"We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life."

We will be having a New Member class during the month of May. Look to the weekly e-mail/bulletin for an announcement giving the next class date.

Want to hear from others what it meant for them to join the church? Talk with someone that is listed in the Anniversary column.



May 12, 2018

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Kevin Zimmer
Marilyn Miller
Patty Gruber
David Henry
Lynn Hiscock—mother of Jade Alofs
Sally Wheeler—mother-in-law of Karen Morey
Linda Chapman—wife of Glenn Chapman



Congratulations!

Maia Rowles graduated from the University of Michigan with her Masters Degree in Cancer Chemical Biology on April 26th. She was also honored through the Drews Scholars program at MSU.

Adopt-a-Days from April

April 22nd, given by Chris Valentine

April 29th, celebrating the flowers of Spring, given by Wome's Fellowship

Sign up for your favorite day(s) of May. See the calendar in the Narthex!



Please come help!

May 26th—June 1st

Contacts

Mike Nelson 214-6846

Bob Linderman 214-2550

May Worship

May 6th- Communion

Loving Friends is our theme this Sunday as we hear Jesus speak in John 15:9-17, that we are to love one another.

Communion will be celebrated.

We will also recognize one of our high school seniors, Hailey Bowman during the offering.

May 13th- Mothers Day

The Diaconate will have a gift for all the women of the church this morning.

Our theme is Love Leads the Way. In the lesson from Acts 1:15-17 we hear of the calling of a new disciple. Love leads the way to this calling. Jesus' life and teachings model a path for hope and healing. God's love leads us through prayer, discernment, and holy listening.

May 20th- Pentecost Sunday

This is Pentecost - a celebration of the birth of the church. Everyone is encouraged to wear red to celebrate.

This is also Children's Sunday - the last Sunday of Church School for this program year. We will recognize our children and teachers this Sunday.

The hand bells will offer special music.

Children from the church school will share one of our scripture readings, the Parable of the Sower.

May 27th- Memorial Sunday

Our scripture reading is from John 3:1-17. Here Nicodemus struggles to hear the message of God he received, limited by the voices of his own day. Nicodemus seeks Jesus out, certain that he "knows" about Jesus. In the conversation that follows, it is clear that Nicodemus is called to a fuller, deeper know-

ing that goes beyond the cognitive. He is called into a living, transformative relationship, that encompasses his whole being. And so are we.

Worship will include the dedication of memorial gifts, prayers for those who have died in service to their country, and prayers for those who have died in the past 6 months. We gather to give thanks for God's compassion and comfort on this Sunday.



WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

May 10th at 9:30

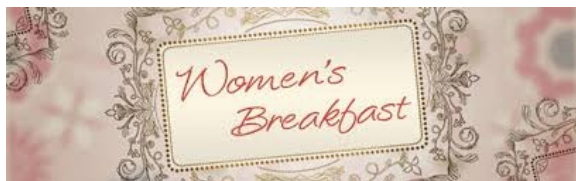
We will be meeting on Thursday May 10th at Karen Ruesink's house. Bring an item that is special to you along with a story about it. For Karen's address, check the directory or give her a call, 637-6141. See you there.

Hello from your mission board

We would like to share a great opportunity to help others in our community by donating diapers and wipes to support project H.O.P.E. , here in South Haven. Diapers of all sizes and brands and wipes of any brand needed.

Look for a donation box and display starting May 1st. Donations will be accepted until May 31st.

Thanks.



Join us at Six Chicks Thursday, May 1st at 8:30 a.m. Come and enjoy breakfast and conversation around the table.

Since a group of men have been meeting we thought we could be doing the same thing to connect with other women of our church on a more regular basis.

Breakfasts will be **switching to Wednesdays**, same time and place, **beginning with May 9th**.

These breakfasts will be ongoing. No need to make reservation, just come on down. If you can't make it we hope you'll be able to come the next time.

Helping others in your community

Do you want to help someone in some way but haven't taken the steps to go forward? Caring Circle (formerly Hospice at Home) needs volunteers to serve the South Haven, Bangor, Coloma, Covert, Fennville, Hartford, Pullman, Watervliet and surrounding areas.

Individual volunteers needed for a variety of services such as sitting with patients, delivering flowers, transportation to appointments, small home maintenance projects, pet therapy visits, and music therapy.

Baking, sewing, blanket making, card making, flower arranging and other crafty activities are some other great opportunities for individuals, families or groups to serve. New ideas are also welcome.

Please contact Erika Morrison at (269) 637-3825 or emorrison1@caring-circle.org to volunteer or get more information.

Thank you for considering volunteering with Caring Circle.

Haiti Fundraisers

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the two fund raisers to help the youth going to Haiti in June. The Pancake breakfast brought in \$700 in donations. Many thanks to Meijers, Aldis and WalMart for their donations as well. We had great help and a wonderful turn out from the church and community.

Then, the next weekend a group of mom's and some youth spent the entire night making over 1,200 tamales!!! This fundraiser netted \$1,100 in profit. Just amazing.

Thank you to everyone who ate pancakes and tamales (but not on the same day). You have made a big impact on our youth.





everyone in a rousing game of "Apples to Apples". As usual, the Sardines game went on for two hours with the students finding new and novel places to hide.

The Middle School students did a great job in leading the "Senior Moment". They read and acted "The Good Samaritan" and asked the congregation "Who is our neighbor?".

The Senior High talked about how people use the Bible to support their prejudices in the play "God and Friends".

The weekend capped off a wonderful year. I enjoyed my time with each of you, not just this year but all the years we have had together.

I say it every year: The church has a right to be proud of you. You all give me hope for the future.

*With love in Christ and fondest regards,
Yours, Rick*

Youth News

The following is a letter that Rick Olsen sent to the youth group.

Thank you for participating in the Activity Weekend and Youth Worship Service this past Sunday. I think all the activities were a great success. Both the HS and MS students were able to escape the escape room within an hours.

Congratulations to Hailey and Joe for being voted the MVPs for their respective rooms.

Everyone completed the Greater South Haven Scavenger Hunt within 1.5 hours. Well, everyone except our team but we stopped to eat ice cream at Captain Nemos.

Game night went well with Patty leading





High School class practicing skit for worship.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church office is going to be printing a new address directory in May. Many people communicate by e-mail so it was requested to print everyone's e-mail address. **If you DO NOT want your e-mail listed you need to let the church office know by May 10th.**

The Church School class is learning about **the Parable of the Sower**. Ted and Margaret Guimond have helped them to build a visual display to tell the story. The students will then tell this story on Pentecost.



Looking at May

Lay Assistant

6– Shirley Sollman
13– Patty Gruber
20– Chloe McNicholas
and Kitty Brennen
27– Chris Valentine

Acolytes

6– Kyle Bos and Erin Bos
13– Ben Meyer and Jake Meyer
20– Liam Cochran and
Chloe McNicholas
27– Kitty Brennen

Ushers

Barb Wittkop and Ann Raue

Nursery

(sign up in the Narthex)

Hospitality

(sign up in the Narthex)

Financial Counters

6– Mike Nelson
Jeff Reber
13– Chris Valentine
Wes Stephens
20– Aaron Strebeck
Dave Daugherty
27– Patty Brennen
Marcia Claggett

Birthdays

1– Ann Gruber
4– Karen Ruesink
6– Amy Crews
7– Tim Larson
7– Sierra Garber
13– Shirley Sollman
15– Peggy McClendon
16– Aaron Strebeck
16– Erin Bos
17– Beth Keithly
17– Myles Daugherty
20– Camborley Gleason
22– Donna Harper
24– Mike Nelson
29– Debbie Walter
29– Greg O’Niel
31– Robert Peterson
31– Juliet Gibson



Anniversaries

1– Greg & Marian O’Niel
7– Ted & Margaret Guimond
15– Bill & Patty Brennen
20– Jerry & Ann Gruber
21– Tony & Pat Martorano
25– Craig & Chris Arms
27– Steve & Kam Daugherty
27– Michael & Amy Crews

