

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

*South Haven, MI*

April 2022



**April 10th**  
Palm Sunday

**April 14th**  
Holy Thursday  
Worship at 7 p.m.

**April 15th: Community Good Friday Service**  
First Assembly of God at noon

**April 17th**  
Easter Sunday Worship

The work you have done  
for this congregation has  
truly been a blessing. We  
praise God to have been  
blessed with you as our  
shepherd.



FOR PASTOR DICK  
AND HIS FAMILY

**OPEN HOUSE**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH  
2-5 P.M.

*Prayers for continued healing of our church family:*

Lori Tupper  
Margaret Guimond  
Sharon McNicholas  
Elsie Hoffman  
Mike Livovich

The people of Ukraine.

**Grieving**  
Family of Chrystal Smith

**Joan Gruber** is now residing at Douglas Cove in Douglas. She would be so happy to hear from you. You can send cards to:

Joan Gruber  
c/o Douglas Cove  
243 Wiley Rd.  
Douglas, MI 49406



**Adopt-a-Days from March**

**March 7th**, in memory of Ann Gruber, given by Jerry Gruber.

**March 18th**, in celebration of Wes Stephens' 80th birthday.

**Many thanks to my drivers** during the past months: Cathy Siler, Stuart Comiskey, Jeff Reber, Ted Guimond, Sue Murphey, and of course my wife. Given by Jeffrey Dick.

**Thanks to all** who came by the house and played cards. It certainly helped pass the time while I was laid up at home. Given by Jeffrey Dick.

**History behind the Adopt-a-day**

The Board of Trustees started this project several years ago to help defray the rising costs of the utilities of the church.

**How does it work?** Pick a day, any day, and write on the calendar hanging on the north bulletin board in the Narthex with what you are celebrating or remembering. Besides writing on the calendar there are cards to fill out that are attached to the calendar. Fill one out and place it in the offering plate with your check/cash. This way the church office will have the information for it to be put in the bulletin in a timely manner.

## **April Worship**

We are in the midst of Lent and worship is going well. April will be an incredibly busy and full month. See the notes below.

### **April 3rd—A Time of Celebration**

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Mary anoints Jesus

Communion will be celebrated.  
New Members will be welcomed during the service.

We recognize the ministry of one of our new members, Dani Veenstra. The council has approved a Three Way Covenant with her, the Southwest Association and our church. This covenant supports her call to be a supply pastor in the United Church of Christ. Dani is a Licensed Minister in the United Church of Christ. She and her husband David have joined the church and are already active here.

Music: Louise Wepfer on piano, Diane and Lisa.

### **April 10th—Palm Sunday**

The scripture reading is the Palm Sunday story as told in Luke 19: 28-40

The children will help us celebrate Palm Sunday during our opening. There will be palm branches for everyone to take home.

A Celebration of baptism for Beckham Todd Clayton, son of Sydney Plochocki and Trevor Clayton and great-grandson of Cheryl Gauntlett, will take place.

Music will be provided by Adam Peterson, Nancy Nelson, and Diane & Lisa

### **April 14th—Maundy/Holy Thursday**

This service is a reminder of the events of the last days of Jesus' life. The center point is the remembrance of the Last Supper. Communion will be celebrated. The service ends with a somber note remembering Jesus dying on the cross.

The Chancel Choir will provide an anthem.

The service is at 7 pm

### **April 17th—Easter Sunday**

Our journey with Jesus through Lent and the cross ends as we gather on Easter to celebrate that the tomb was empty and Christ arose! We will hear the Easter story told in scripture and celebrate.

Music will be a highlight of this morning as we sing and praise God for the triumph over all that would destroy life.

A celebration of baptism for Kye Ruesink, grandson of Tom and Karen, will also be a part of our service.

### **April 24th—Youth Sunday**

The Middle and Senior High Youth will be giving the sermon on this Sunday.

## **May 1st**

### **Pastor Dick's Final Service**

Pastor Dick will be leading and preaching on this Sunday. Communion will be celebrated. Worship will conclude with a Service Recognizing the End of Pastor Dick's ministry with us.

## Youth Ministry

The youth will be up front sharing during the Annual Youth Sunday worship service on April 24. They will be meeting individually with Rick Olsen this month to plan for their talk and the worship service.

After the worship service on April 24, we will have an end of the year "Pizza Party".

## Children's Ministry

Sunday School, led by Sarah Peterson, is meeting every Sunday morning after our time with children in the worship service. This is for all children who are not yet in sixth grade. They will be participating in our worship services during Lent with exciting skits.

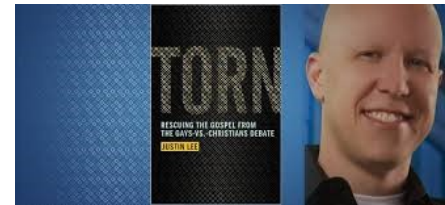
They look forward to singing in worship on Jeffrey Dick's last Sunday which is May 1st.

## Young Adult Ministry

(18-55 yrs. of age and their families)

Join us for our "Prepare for Easter" Zoom Worship Experience on Sunday, April 10 at 6:00. We'll be experiencing the events of Holy Week, sharing how we're doing these days, talking about an Easter memory, and concluding with celebrating Holy Communion together.

Contact Pastor Mike at [michael-jamestupper@yahoo.com](mailto:michael-jamestupper@yahoo.com) for the Zoom invite.



## New Book Study from our Welcoming Team

The book is "Torn" by Justin Lee. It is a Zoom Book Study that began on March 28th. It continues on April 4 and April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00.

The study will be led by Joyce Hagen-McIntosh and Marcia Claggett. Contact Mike Tupper for the Zoom link.

It is a memoir of a young man's journey growing up in the evangelical faith and destined for a life in Christian ministry and his acceptance of being gay. Justin Lee uses his personal experiences to engage in some of the toughest issues of Gays vs. Christians. "This is an insightful, practical guide for Christians everywhere who struggle with how to relate to gay friends or family members, or with their own sexuality. With grace and authority, Justin shows how people on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another."

*This book is encouraged and recommended by the Welcoming Team as an educational resource to answer questions raised during our ONA process and to further explore the issues.*





## **Spring Cleanup sponsored by the Mission Board**

Cleanup will start at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 23rd (rain date April 30th). We work for 1–1½ hours, depending on the size of the crew. Join us for all, or part of the time.

The road portion we clean is on M-140. We meet in the field at the corner of 24th. Wear sturdy shoes. Gloves, vests, bags, and water are provided.

If you haven't watched the safety video it is available at the church, or at [www.Michigan.gov/AdoptAHighway](http://www.Michigan.gov/AdoptAHighway).

This is a wonderful way to show our community, and visitors, how much we care.

Questions? Call Nancy Garber, 268-767-3920, or email her at [chucknancy@comcast.net](mailto:chucknancy@comcast.net)

## **Prayer Shawls**

A shawl was given in joy to AmeriKay during Sunday School on March 13th. She is the foster child of Sean & Sarah Peterson.

Two shawls have been made and donated by Kathy Straits.

## **Pew discussions ongoing**

The Trustees continue to research some changes to the sanctuary.

- 1) The possibility of removing the front pews to make space between the pews and the piano. This has been recommended as a safety measure.
- 2) To provide a place within the sanctuary that is designed for wheelchairs. This could mean removing part of some pews so that a wheelchair could fit within the pews.

The Church Council has discussed this matter and is asking the congregation to forward their comments, questions, and ideas regarding this matter, to anyone on the Board of Trustees. Ted Guimond is the chairperson and he would welcome your comments by email. Contact him at: [tguimond@comcast.net](mailto:tguimond@comcast.net)

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING! May 25 and 26**

Same procedures. More info closer to the event. Contact Kris Ayers with any questions. 637-8762

Dear Members and ladies at First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for the fun Valentine gifts and especially for all the food Matt & I have received.

Thank you most for your thoughts and prayers, we all need that!

-Cathy Fritz

Dear members of the First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the new children's museum in South Haven! We are looking forward to being a part of this vibrant community.

-Wendi Onuki, Executive Director

Harbor Habitat for Humanity, located in Benton Harbor, expresses their sincere gratitude for the donation they recently received from the church.



We hosted 70 runners from the University of Michigan on Sunday morning, March 20<sup>th</sup>. These young men and women have been coming here for over 14 years. They have created a Race Across Michigan (RAM), a 190-mile relay organized by the University

of Michigan Running Club in order to raise money for the Special Olympics. This year, they raised over \$24,500!

In addition to running across Michigan, they stop in Ann Arbor to run relays with Special Olympians. They end this run by running the Kal Haven Trail from Kalamazoo to South Haven and the North Beach - where some dip their toes in the water and others jump in! Then they come to the church where they catch a two or 3 hour nap. The church serves them breakfast. Then, they head home.

Many thanks to all who donated food items for breakfast (John & Sue Gillett, Sue & Dave Murphey, Kris & Art Ayers, Bonnie Deke, Cathy Siler, and Mary Pietenpol. Cathy Siler opened the church bright and early for the runners and stayed to help serve breakfast along with Bob Linderman and the Murpheys. Thank you so much. The runners hope to return next year, so watch for an opportunity to help out.

They left a thank you note for Pastor Dick, signed by many of the runners that read:

*Thank you so much for everything that you've done for us. RAM truly would not be able to happen without you hosting us every single year. It's no easy feat to manage 70 tired, dirty runners year after year and you've done an excellent job. Thank you for always providing food for us as well, you always go out of your way to do it and it is probably the most important meal we've had in all of RAM. I speak for every member and RAM coordinator from the past when I say, Thank you!*

- Abdullah





## Easter Flowers

The flowers at Easter add a richness to our worship that is very special. You are invited to place a flower (lily, tulips, hyacinth) in honor or in memory of someone. A minimum donation of \$15 is requested. Your gift over and above that will go to help add additional flowers, and decorations for our Easter Worship. Extra forms are available in the Narthex.




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## Order Form

This year for Easter you may order a specific plant(s) that will adorn our altar for Easter morning. After the Easter morning worship service please take the plant that you ordered home to enjoy. Deadline for placing your order is **Sunday, April 10th**.

Please complete this form and return it to the church office with your check made payable to the church. Each plant costs \$15.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant home.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave my plant at church.

The plant is in memory / honor of: *(please circle which one)*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth

The plant is in memory / honor of: *(please circle which one)*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your name(s), which will appear in the bulletin Easter morning.

A Three-way Ministry Covenant  
among Dani Veenstra,  
The Church & Ministry Committee on  
behalf of the Southwest Association of  
the Michigan Conference  
(*Calling and Authorizing Body*)  
and First Congregational UCC  
of South Haven, MI  
(*Local Church Membership*)  
to authorize Dani Veenstra  
as a Licensed Supply Minister  
to the local churches of the  
SWA of Michigan Conference.

The purpose of this covenant is:  
to strengthen, support and sustain  
  
the ministries of all the partners  
that share in this covenant;  
  
to encourage mutual participation and  
accountability of and for the life of  
each by the others;  
  
to observe, nurture, celebrate and call  
forth the ministry of the Licensed Min-  
ister.

This 3-Way Covenant is similar to a Call Agreement but spells out what each leg of the agreement promises to do and be, to and for one another. As a Licensed rather than Ordained Minister I am authorized within the parameters of this call to serve the local churches of the Southwest Association as a Pulpit Supply Minister preaching, teaching and presiding at the Communion Table.

Feel free to ask me any questions about my roll as a Supply Minister to the SWA or to look over the Covenant itself. I'll carry a copy with me each week for now. This Covenant was approved by the church council and the Association's Church & Ministry Committee.

Thank you for accepting me into this church body, I look forward to being a part of First Congregational for a long time.

Sincerely,  
Dani Veenstra

## Birthdays

04/01 Jeff Muck  
04/01 Larry Wittkop  
04/01 Noah Saucedo  
04/04 Christine Valentine  
04/06 Jeff Reber  
04/08 Jade Suhr  
04/10 Craig Arms  
04/14 Tammy Larson  
04/15 Patty Gruber  
04/15 Connor Cochran  
04/16 Nancy Nelson  
04/16 Karen Morey  
04/18 Alan Lyon  
04/21 Michael Bos  
04/21 Joy Church  
04/22 Elian Garcia  
04/26 Brandon Dick



## Anniversaries

04/04 Len & Debbie Walter  
04/06 Doug & Patty Gruber  
04/19 Bob & Shirley Sollman  
04/23 Tom Barczak & Dea Bishop

## Deacons of the Month

Mike Nelson  
Stuart Comiskey