

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

April 2023



April 2nd
Palm Sunday
Holy Communion

April 6th
Maundy Thursday
Worship

April 7th
Community Good Friday Service
Life Bridge at Noon

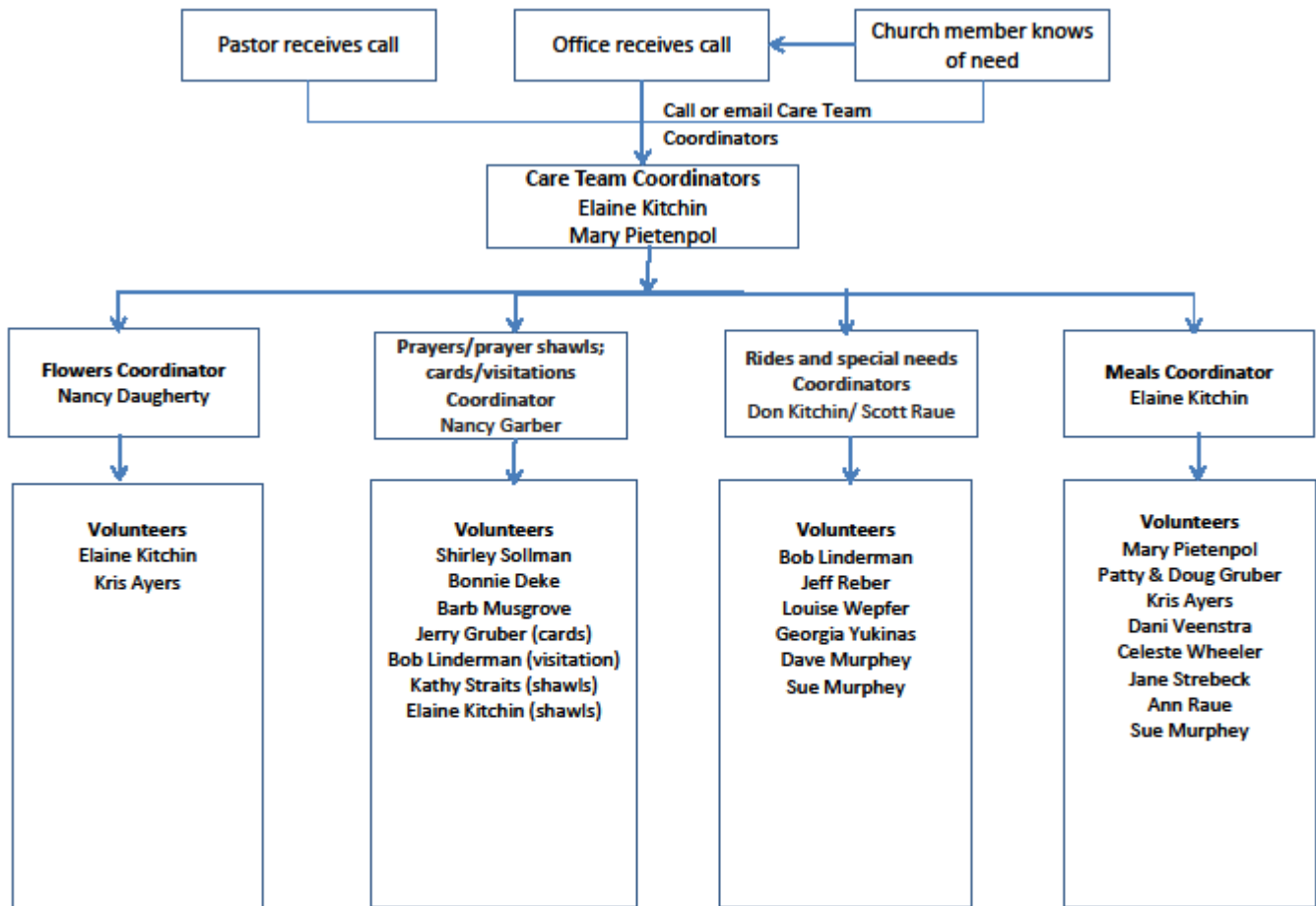
April 9th
Easter Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.

Our next **Family Fellowship Night** will be on Sunday, April 2nd at 5 pm. We will have a potluck style dinner followed by a fun wildflower seed project led by Marge Lampe.

Bring a dish to pass, an egg carton, and be ready to get your hands a little dirty with some wildflower seed bombs!

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Rick Olsen
 Joyce Thompson
 Bob Sollman
 Art Ayers
 Tom Barczak, (Dea Bishop's husband)
 Donna Capps



April Worship

April 2:

Matthew 21:1-11
“A Prophet Comes to Town”

April 9:

John 20:1-18
“Mary and the Gardener”

April 16:

John 20:19-31
“Thomas and his Doubts”

April 23:

Luke 24:13-35
“Emmaus-The Walk
Toward Recognition”

April 30:

Psalms 23 and John 21:15-19
“Love x3”

Easter

On April 9, we will once again celebrate the mystery of the resurrection. I marvel every year about the events leading up to that week. I wonder where I would have stood in the crowd. Years ago, I was part of a church that did a Passion Play for the whole town, big production numbers, soaring solos, moving death at the cross. I was part of the crowd/chorus, given a bit part to play. I stood on the side of the street waving a palm branch, and then a few scenes later stood in the crowd shouting for Barabbas to be freed and to crucify Jesus. It was strange and a bit frightening to night after night be a part of the crowd swayed by mob mentality, both in joy and in anger. Where would I stand if Jesus rode in to town today?

The events in the final week of Jesus life are overwhelming when compressed into a few hours of worship; hours for us to experience all of the events told in our gospels. There was the triumph as Jesus entered the city to waving branches and shouts of adoration, a friend's betrayal after supper, anguished prayer in a garden, an arrest, a brutal beat-

ing, and the final journey to the cross. I read it each year and always wonder where would I have stood those many years ago, where do I stand today?

The authorities were through with Jesus' disruptions to their system of power, his defiance with temple authorities was upsetting the people, they feared his puzzling words of a heavenly realm here on earth that they could not control.

Today we at times do not want our lives disrupted by the realm that Jesus spoke of. Giving to the food pantry is easy (and so needed), but can we move beyond that to help end the social and political systems that keep people in poverty and hunger? Will we volunteer our time and effort to creating heaven here by loving as Jesus did, radically-with all we are and all we have? Will we stand with those who wave branches and signs and shout hosanna, change is needed- blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord?

That title 'the one who comes in the name of the lord' does not just belong to Jesus- we too are the ones who come in the name of the lord. When we care for the widow, shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, educate the

children, provide health care that is affordable, contact our representatives at the State and federal level with words of concern and compassion; we too come in the name of the lord.

“Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your

lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! *Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God every step of the way. Colossians 3:16-17 (The Message)*

Let every detail in your lives be done in the name of The Master. Choose, which crowd will you stand with?

-Pastor Dani



Nominating Committee

The Church Council needs three members to form this committee. Its task is to fill the vacant spots of boards that will occur beginning of January of the next year. The committee is provided with descriptions of each of the boards responsibilities to help explain to those they call upon.

The committee would begin the process normally in September. The task has to be completed by mid October.

If you would be willing to serve on this committee please contact the Moderator, Dave Murphey.



Springtime in South Haven...

...means it's rummage sale time here at the church. It's time to slip down that rabbit hole and dig up your treasures. Sale dates are:

Wednesday, April 19, 3–7 p.m.
Thursday, April 20, Noon–3 p.m.
(The last 30 minutes will be free.)

We'll pack and haul beginning at 3 p.m.

You may bring your items on **Thursday, April 13, Friday, April 14, and Monday, April 17th, all during church hours of 9:30-1:30 p.m.** If you have access at other times, feel free to bring your items in. **REMEMBER:** You need to set items on the appropriate table/area and **UNPACK.** Tables will be labeled.

We no longer have the help to move stuff around, which also means, **NO EARLY DELIV-**

ERIES. The exception to that are large items like furniture, which may be put in the office hallway, or the lower level hallway.

Staging and arranging will take place on Tuesday, April 18th, from 9-3 p.m. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed that day. Since donations will be presorted, it should go quickly. *Only big tickets items will be priced.*

Three cashiers and a few aisle managers are needed for Wednesday and Thursday. Check out is by the bundle.

After the sale packers and haulers are needed at 3 p.m. on that Thursday.

PLEASE:

- ⇒ Place your items in the designated areas. Avoid under the tables if possible.
- ⇒ Bundle, tie, tape, package, pin items, pairs, and sets that go together.
- ⇒ Label linen sizes or shapes and bundle together.
- ⇒ CLEAN, DRY, functioning items only.
- ⇒ Only decorative picture frames seem to sell.
- ⇒ Large items in office hallway or lower level hallway.
- ⇒ Plants, and starts, sell VERY well.

Limit of 2 (two) containers of clothing per family. If items are bulky does not count towards your two limit.

Any containers left should be labeled if you wish them returned.

Contact me to volunteer or for more information.

HOP TO IT!

Kris Ayers
637-8762
artayers16@aol.com



Several years ago, First Congregational Church adopted a portion of M-140 to clean through the Adopt-a-Highway program. **Our first cleanup is on April 22nd, EARTH DAY.**

We need able bodies workers for 1–1 1/2 hours, depending on the size of the crew. Cleanup will start at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 22nd, with a rain date April 29th, if needed.

Bring a pair of working gloves. At this time of year it is best to be wearing boots if able. Road sides can still be wet/muddy. **Vests, bags, pokers, sunscreen, and water are provided.** (Workers are not required to pick up hazardous material).

The road portion we clean is on M-140. We meet in the field at the southeast corner of 24th and M-140.

Join us for all, or part of the time. Families are welcome and encouraged. What a better way to show our children how to take care of the earth that God provided us.

Please consider joining us!

Emergency Flights Bags for the Domestic Violence Coalition

Earlier this month you may have read in the bulletin about a project that the Womens Fellowship is heading up. These bags are for women who are in domestic violence situations can grab and go when they are able to flee.

During the month of April we are collecting items for this program and donating a por-

tion of the rummage sale profits to make a goal of 20 bags.

Items needed for the bags are:

- First-aid kit (small or medum)
- Shampoo or Conditioner
- Body lotion
- Body wash
- Chapstick
- Hair brush
- Socks (1-2 pair white, larger size)
- Cotton underwear (size 10/12)
- Sweatshirts (2x, 3x)
- Sweatpants (2x, 3x)
- Granola bars or non-perishable snacks

If you would like to make a monetary donation for these items to be purchased, see Sue Murphey or Kris Ayers.

There are copies of this list in the Narthex to help you remember the specifics.

THANK YOU!



The runners from the University of Michigan were to be ending their across state relay here on early Sunday of March 19th. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to them and were only to make it to Battle Creek this year, before calling it quits. This was probably the first time they have ever had to do it since they've began this yearly quest.

We were ready for them though. Thank you to any, and all, who donated food items or offered to come and help serve them that morning.

The U of M Runners assured us they will see us next year. Such devotion...

Smile...your on candid camera...

...not really. Several weeks ago it was mentioned that a pictorial directory through the church, was being put together. The main reason, so it could be given to our new minister when he begins in May to help him put names with faces over time.



You were asked to provide the church office a picture of your choosing. We have only received just a couple. The call is going out again for you to help with this. It's easier to receive a photo than it is to try and take pictures of people at the church on any given Sunday. We do have on file some of the older pictures that were taken, and if useable, will insert those if we don't have one to replace it with.

(Many of you will just look younger.) 🙄

Yes, the main reason is for the minister, but there are new faces and we'd like everyone to have a copy of this directory as well. So, please, help us out, and **send the church office a digital copy by April 20th at—**

church@uccsouthhaven.com

The photo can be in the form of a JPEG, GIF, or PNG.

Thank you!

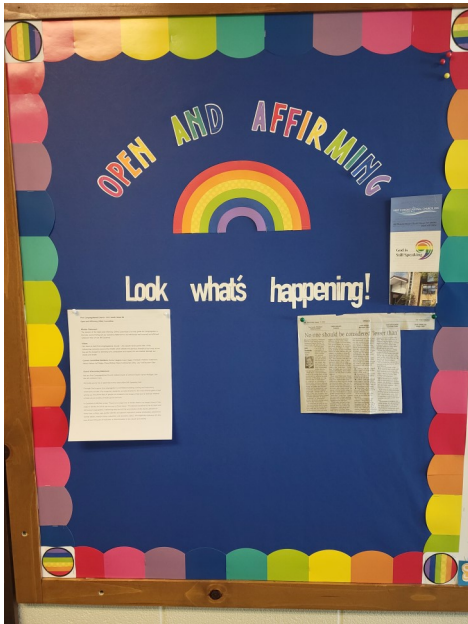
Birthdays

04/01 Jeff Muck
Larry Wittkop
Noah Saucedo
04/06 Jeff Reber
04/10 Craig Arms
04/15 Patty Gruber
Connor Cochran
04/16 Nancy Nelson
Karen Morey
04/18 Alan Lyon
04/21 Michael Bos
Joy Church
04/22 Elian Garcia

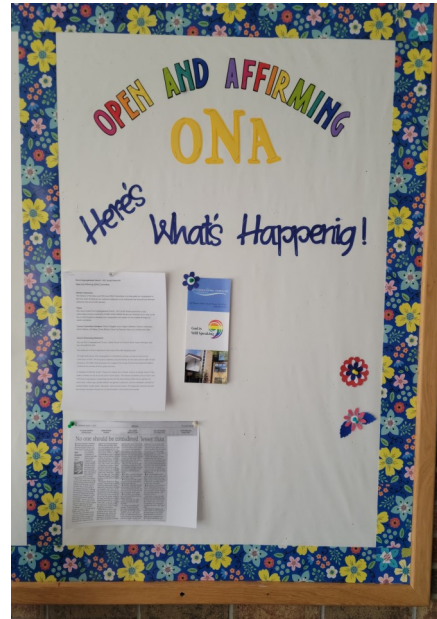


Anniversaries

04/04 Len & Debbie Walter
04/06 Doug & Patty Gruber, 35th
04/18 Dan & Laurie Thompson, 1st
04/19 Bob & Shirley Sollman
04/23 Tom Barczak & Dea Bishop, 40th



(Office Hallway)



(Narthex)

Do you enjoy our beautiful decorated bulletin boards in the Narthex and office hallway? Well, some of you know that Donna Schnepf is the one who provides us with these, and she loves doing them. She is so creative.

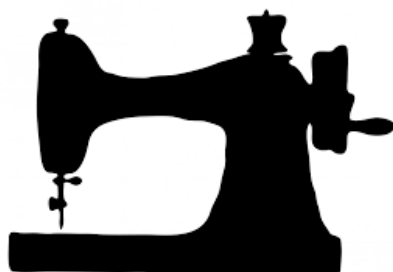
Donna was recently asked to provide a space on those boards for ONA. As always, a beautiful job. Make sure when you see her tell her thank you.



Church Constitution & Bylaws

First Congregational Church's Constitution and Bylaws

New copies of this have been printed and are in the Narthex. If you would like a digital copy notify the church office.



Women's Fellowship has 3 sewing machines available for a donation, as is. They are located under the dry erase board near the elevator on the lower level. Feel free to test drive them. Pay Sue Murphey or Kris Ayers.

Also, please feel free to use the fabric and batting in the WF closet located next to the elevator on the lower level.