

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

*South Haven, MI*

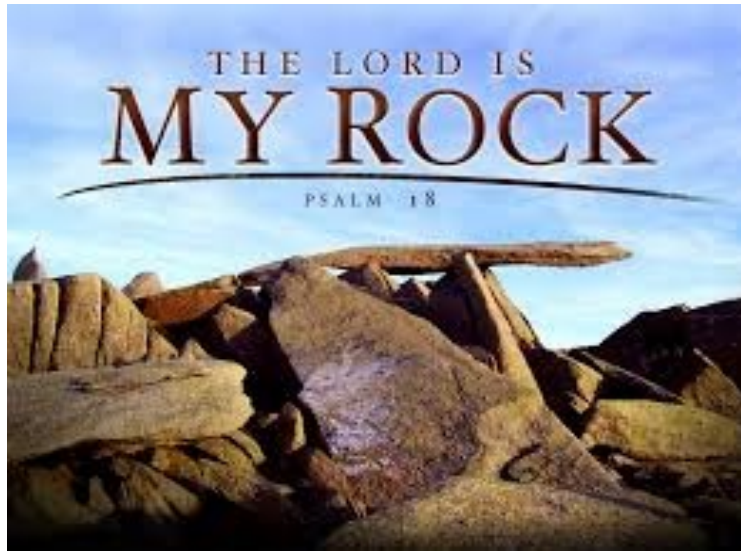
August 2019

## **My God is a Rock**

The LORD lives! Bless God, my rock! Let the God of my salvation be lifted high!

Worshipping with the Psalms will be our focal point in August. This series focuses on the promises of God, whose love and grace are enduring features our lives. In these days of instant gratification and fleeting interest, the Psalms remind us of the steadfast nature

God, calling each of us who are made in the image of God to be steadfast in our promises. We'll prepare ourselves for a new start in the Fall with some promises as a church, to work toward fulfilling our missional goals and being a safe haven where all can know the sure foundation of God!



of

## **Vespers - August 4<sup>th</sup> - 7 p.m.**

Gather for an informal communion service at Pilgrim Haven on Sunday evening August 4<sup>th</sup>. Our service will continue the focus on God, the Rock of our salvation. We will sing some songs, have a time of prayer and sharing and conclude with communion.

Our site is easy to access, but you will want to bring a chair or a blanket to sit on. All our welcome.

*Prayers for continued healing of our church family:*

Carolyn Willobee has now moved in to the Assisted Living building (front) at River Ridge.

Her address is:  
706 Kentucky Ave. # 14  
South Haven, MI 49090

I'm sure she would love to have you visit her!

There will be a **Celebration of Life for Marilyn Miller** on August 7th from 5-9 p.m. This will be held 864 Monroe Blvd.

### **Ecclesiastical Council**

An Ecclesiastical Council for the examination of Terrilyn J. Krueger for Ordination in the United Church of Christ, pending an approved call, will be held here at First Congregational Church on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be held in the sanctuary beginning at 1 p.m.

Tere is a Member in Discernment of the Southwest Association and has previously served as a licensed minister. She has a doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan University. Tere also preached here in July.

A copy of her ordination paper is available. Please contact the church office.

Our church can have three delegates for this meeting. Others are welcome to attend, but will need to leave when voting takes place.



### **Adopt-a-Days from July**

**July 4th**, celebrating our countries birthday, given by Women's Fellowship

**July 14th**, in celebration of Aubrey's 1st birthday, given by her family.

**July 16th**, paying it forward to those of my church family who helped me move my things from Marilyn Millers' basement; Mike & Joe Nelson, Bob Linderman and Marcia Claggett, from Bonnie Deke.

**July 27th**, thank you members of the board of Trustees. We appreciate all you do. -Nancy & Chuck Garber



Please come help!

**August 24-30**

#### **Contacts**

Mike Nelson 214-6846

Bob Linderman 214-2550

## August 4<sup>th</sup>: Solid Rock

The LORD is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer. My God is my rock— I take refuge in him! God is my shield, my salvation's strength, my place of safety. - Psalm 18

We begin our series exploring the steadfast nature of God with the phrase, "God is good... all the time... and all the time... God is good!" Indeed, life is not always good, people are not always good, hard times do come. But God IS always good and gives us the strength to face anything, anytime. We will focus on the role of our communal worship - especially around the table - as a safe and life-giving place of refuge where all are welcome.

Communion will be served at both services.

## August 11<sup>th</sup>: Lead Me to the Rock

When my heart is weak, I cry out to you from the very ends of the earth. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I am. - Psalm 61

Our spiritual path leads us toward a God that is "higher" than anything of this world. Too often we try to count on our own power and struggle when we realize that it is not enough to effect the kind of transformation we seek. We will explore how our spiritual growth program can be expanded by inviting people to small groups to gather for support around many issues. How can we, as a church, keep leading each other on the spiritual path toward the God who raises us up?

## August 18<sup>th</sup> Shelter of the Rock

"Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling during troubling times; he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent; he will set me up high, safe on a rock." - Psalm 27

One of the basic needs of every human being is shelter. Whether we need physical shelter in the form of a place to hang our hats, emotional shelter in the form of encouragement and affirmation amidst life's struggles, or spiritual shelter in the form of a supportive faith community, shelter is gift of God's grace

which we can participate in bringing to the world. We will focus this week on our relationship with the homeless in our community, considering several ways that we can offer the ministry of shelter with and through agencies already doing good work.

## August 25<sup>th</sup>: My Rock and My Redeemer

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19

To be "redeemed" is to be set on a right and good path. As this series comes to a close, we engage in a ritual of promises to walk the good path together. We've focused on a mission project, on enhancing our spiritual small group programs and making our worship a life-giving and safe place where all feel welcome. We move into the Fall with excitement and verve!



## Bell Choir

Rehearse AFTER  
Church, Sundays  
September 8, 15, 22  
Participate in Worship September 29

RSVP to Mary Pietenpol by **August 18**, so the appropriate music can be selected for the available ringers.

## Highway Cleanup

Thirteen folks turned out for our second highway cleanup. Much easier than in the spring. Thanks to all who turned out. Special thanks to Shirley Sollman for driving and keeping track of us.

Do watch for our sign going up soon on M140.

## Thursday Night Picnic

On Thursday Aug 22, the Thursday night dinner crew will hold an end of the summer picnic. This will be a free meal of hot dogs, potato salad baked beans and desserts. Invitations to the regular guests at Thursday night suppers will be sent. The church [xpmunity.is](http://xpmunity.is) also welcome.

Helpers will be needed to cook and serve. We also need volunteers to make brownies for dessert. Watch for a sign up sheet in August.

Dinner will be served at 6 PM in fellowship hall



## Bikes on Parade

At the corner of Phoenix and Pearl Street, a bicycle is on display by the Peace Pole. This is a part of the Bikes on parade throughout South Haven sponsored by the Art Center. There will be 30 bikes on display throughout the city and map will be made to show all the locations.

Our bike carries the Peace Theme of the Peace Pole and helps to make the statement that we are a community of faith that works and prayers for peace in the world.

Our bike was donated to us by Rock n Road Cycle. It was decorated by Kris Ayers and Margaret Guimond. The bike stand was made by Ted Guimond. The bike was ridden in the Fourth of July Parade by Donnell Thomas.

The bike will remain there for the summer and after Labor Day will be auctioned off.

## Cleaning House

Have you ever done cleaning and thrown something out that you shouldn't have. Well it seems that some historical documents about the church were.

So, when you are cleaning house if you have any church related reports that are prior to 2010, could you please save them and drop them off at the church. Annual Reports, minutes of meeting, or old newsletters.

It would be appreciated.

Thank you!

## Giving Statements

The second quarter statements were printed and available in mid July. The majority were printed for pick up.

When you filled out your pledge card last year one of the questions was if the church could e-mail your statements. Seventeen people requested that.

Right now first-class mail costs 55 cents. For the statements not picked up, about 50, had to be mailed. The cost for that one mailing was \$ 27.50. If we mailed out each quarter that same amount it would cost us \$ 110.

Now that \$ 27.50 doesn't seem like much but when you are trying to balance a budget every penny counts. For those that budget at home you are very aware of that.

Now some might say don't worry about sending out the statements. Sending them out is important to let congregation members know where their giving is compared to their pledge.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to sign up to receive these statements in that way just call the office and let us know. You are still able to receive your statement by mail if you wish.





## Our Boston Trip - by Jeffrey Dick

Five youth and three adults spent a week in Boston primarily working with ministries that assist those who are homeless or living in poverty. We were working with Praying Pelican Missions. This is the same group we have worked with in Haiti.

Our two group leaders were excellent and helped us navigate the streets and transit systems of Boston very well. We did a lot of walking.



Some highlights of our trip include:

First stop, Buffalo NY. We stayed at my sister's home. Charmaine lives in downtown Buffalo and had plenty of room for us. My mother, Miriam, provided us with really good Buffalo pizza and wings. Following dinner, we made a trip to

Niagara Falls at night which was delightful.

Saturday was a long drive with a stop at a historical site for the Erie Canal. A good place to rest. Saturday night in Boston was settling in and get acquainted.

Sunday we attended church at our host church, Old West Church which is a Methodist church. It began as a Congregational Church back in 1737. the church currently has about 30 members. They have taken all of the pews out and sit in chairs. Worship included time to move around and participate in some activities from lighting a prayer candle, to writing prayer requests and painting on a slate. It was moving service.

Monday morning we were pulling weeds in the garden at Old West Church.



On Tuesday, we were weeding and planting at one of the Eastie Gardens. These are community gardens on the East Side of Boston. Much of the food grown at these gardens are given to local food pantries and soup kitchens.





Art lunch—girls serving lunch

On both days we handed out water and food to homeless people or others on the street. We experienced people who didn't want to talk to us to many who were very grateful and thankful for our donation.



Laura Bos, one of our adult leaders, shared the following about our time on Wednesday at a program call Common Art.

“Wednesday we spent a good chunk of the day helping with a church-run art program. Much of this was fun because we literally did art with the people there. While open to anyone, many of the attendees are homeless. Amazing things – the program began many years ago because it was asked for by homeless individuals. I love that people with homes didn't choose it, but they made it happen. The program also plans everything with huge input from the participants.”



On Wednesday we also made sandwiches, packed a cooler, and headed out to deliver food and water to those who needed it. The young people made the sandwiches and gave them out with a warm and generous spirit. Their energy level was quite high for a long day.



Thursday was our final day, and it was a day for our group to enjoy the city. We toured the Congregational Library, some churches, Quincy Market, and we took a boat tour of the harbor. We learned church history, American history and saw the great economic divide in our nation. An amazing day.

Our last night in Boston we spent time reviewing about the week. We also shared affirmations about each other in our group. This was a very emotional time of naming the strengths we saw in each other. The young people took this time very serious and the depth of their sharing was powerful.

This was one of the best trips I have been on. It was a great week. I will close once again with words from Laura Bos, which I fully agree with.

“This week was such an amazing experience. I am SO PROUD of these kids – their hearts, their spirits, and their willingness to step out of their comfort zones in so many ways.”

Submitted with joy,  
Jeffrey Dick

## CALLING ALL TRAVELERS

Many in our congregation have taken trips to interesting places. And many of us would like to hear about your travels. The CE board would like to have a show and tell of sorts in October with a meal while listening to a 10-15 min. presentation of your adventure.

There will be a sign up sheet in August and more details to follow. Please contact Kris Ayers ([artayers16@aol.com](mailto:artayers16@aol.com) or 637.8762) if you want to sign up now or have questions.

## Community Picnic

We have been invited to participate in the Ward 1 Community Picnic to be held at Elkenburg Park on Sunday, August 25th from 6 to 8 p.m. Last summer they had 400 people attend this event. They have YDC providing games, the Art Center doing some art and Foundry Hall providing music. Ward 1 is providing the meat (pulled pork and hot dogs). The Church Council has voted to support this event by providing some tables to serve food from. We will need people to help move tables earlier in that day. Please speak to Pastor Dick if you can help.

Everyone is welcome to attend and people are encouraged to bring a chair to sit on. Will have more information as the time draws near.

## Do you love playing Cribbage?

Ted Guimond does. In fact he started gatherings at the SH Library last year. It has been going very well. So he's moving the gatherings here to First Congregational Church.

Anyone can be a part of it. All that show up are paired accordingly for the evening.

Those interested will be playing on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. We play from 6-8 usually. Our first gathering is August 6th.

## Scouting News

During the summer we have celebrate three Scouts who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Zachary Hanner, Joe Nelson and Yamil Garcia. All there are members of the church and of Troop 188. Congratulations to all three. Watch for photographs in the office hallway.

Also during July, some of our Scouts participated in the honor guard at the Governor's House and at the fort on mackinaw Island. Liam Cochran, Felimon Saucedo and Yamil Garcia. Yamil was an Assistant Patrol leader. This is a great honor for these scouts.



Highway Clean up Crew



# Looking at August

*(all information below pertains to the 10:30 a.m. service only)*

## Acolytes

We do not schedule during the summer but if you come to a service, and would like to serve, please see Janice Peterson.

## Nursery

4— Art & Kris Ayers  
11— Samantha & Virginia  
18— Elena Garcia + 1  
25— Donna Saucedo  
Felimon Saucedo

## Hospitality

(sign up in the Narthex)

## Financial Counters

4— Chris Valentine  
Dave Daugherty  
11— Patty Brennen  
Terry McGarr  
18— Aaron Strebeck  
Doug Gruber  
25— Ted Guimond  
Marcia Claggett

## **Deacons of the Month**

Barb Wittkop  
637-5890

Alice Warfield  
269-271-4733



## **Birthdays**

08/03 Sarah Campbell  
08/05 Joan Gruber  
08/08 Cindy Bixler-Crawford  
08/10 Doug Schnepf  
08/11 Jerry Gruber  
08/12 Jazmyn Rodriguez  
08/15 Dianne Cox  
08/16 Glenn Cowles  
08/17 Dixie Capps  
08/18 Novella Barden  
08/18 Liam Cochran  
08/24 Doug Gruber  
08/25 Denise Muck  
08/26 Donna Schnepf  
08/26 Maxwell Cowles  
08/28 Avery Hoyt  
08/29 Donna Capps  
08/29 Thomas Lyon

## **Anniversaries**

08/05 Paul & Ethel Stephenson  
08/10 Wes & Elaine Stephens  
08/11 John & Sue Gillett  
08/15 Rick & Linda Olsen  
08/20 Rick & Cathy Siler  
08/24 Tom & Karen Ruesink  
08/31 Jack & Millicent Huminsky  
08/31 Michael Hoyt &  
Sarah Campbell