

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

March 2022

Lenten Worship: The theme for Lent is “Good Enough”

We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility-climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We are always encouraged to do more, have more, want more, and then add to that. Where does it end? We all know that life happens, and not every step in moving up. When do we say, “This is good enough?” Well, that is what we will be exploring on Sunday mornings during Lent.

A visual for Lent will be a large ladder at the front of the church. This will become our garden. Each Sunday, the children will add something new to the ladder until at Easter is full of flowers and life.



**ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING**



The church continues to collect a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing - United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities.

We receive this offering with joy, believing that, with everything else going on in the world, that love remains.

You can send a check to the church marked OGHS or contribute online the month March.

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Ross McNicholas
Jeffrey Dick
Margaret Guimond
Elsie Hoffman
Donna (Becky Mudd's mother-in-law who had a stroke)

Lori Tupper
Bonnie Deke
Sharon McNicholas
Chris Thompson



Adopt-a-Days

This box has been empty. There has to be something in your lives that you want to celebrate. Is there someone who has passed and you want lift their name up.

The process isn't hard. Pick a day, any day, and write on the calendar that is in the Narthex 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.

That's all it takes! How easy is that!



During Lent St. Basil church will host a fish fry on Fridays from 5-7 p.m. These will be held at the Moose Lodge.

Many from the church attend these, perhaps some could gather together for a meal and fellowship.



Set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12th.

Sundays in Lent

Here is a brief look at the Sundays in Lent. (Do note that our Music Directors, Diane and Lisa Van Deurzen-Otey and Adam Peterson provide music each week)

March 6th: Ordinary lives can be holy

Pastor Dick preaching

Communion will be celebrated

Scripture: Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days

Music: The children will sing, along with Adam, Diane and Lisa.

March 13th: So much is out of our control

Pastor Mike preaching

Scripture: Luke 13: 31-35

Even Jesus gets frustrated

Note: This is Daylight Savings time - spring forward!

Music: Celeste Wheeler on clarinet, Dea Bishop, Nancy Nelson on flute, and the Chancel Choir.

March 20th: Lots of things can be medicine

Pastor Dick preaching

Scripture: Luke 13: 1-9

Parable of the fig tree

Music: Chancel Choir; Mike and Nancy Nelson

March 27th: We often believe we are the problem

Pastor Dick preaching

Scripture: Luke 15: 1-3 and 11-32

The Prodigal Son

Music: Handbell Choir

April 3rd: We are fragile

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Mary annoys Jesus

Communion will be celebrated

Music: Janice and Adam Peterson, Louise Wepfer on piano.

Race Across Michigan- March 20th

The University of Michigan Runners are coming back! For many years we have hosted runners from the University of Michigan who arrive here early on a Sunday morning (often around 5 a.m.) They spend Saturday into Sunday running across the state.

While they don't expect anything more than clean bathrooms and a place to sleep for a couple of hours, we have always provided a continental breakfast.

We are looking for some people to help plan for their arrival. This would include getting breakfast items out for them, making coffee and hot water for hot chocolate, and staying to serve them. Also need someone willing to open the church at 4 or 5 a.m. for them because Pastor Dick will not be available.

Lastly, donations for the breakfast would be appreciated. This includes bananas, yogurt, breakfast bars, juice, and other fruit.

If you would like to help in any way please call Pastor Dick, 214-8924.



Adult Study Opportunities

Prayer Group and Adult Class: The Prayer Group is now meeting by Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. This is followed by an Adult Class that meets by Zoom at 7 pm.

All are welcome to attend one or both. The Prayer Group meets for 30 minutes to share prayer concerns and joys. The Adult Class studies the main scripture lesson for the upcoming Sunday. Contact the church or Pastor Dick for the zoom link.

The following is an event cosponsored by First Congregational Church in South Haven and Phoenix Community Church in Kalamazoo

Our Words Matter Discussion on Using Inclusive Language

As we know, words can be of great comfort but words can also do profound harm, often in subtle and unintended ways. That includes the words we use in worship and the words we use to define and describe our faith. Perhaps you've heard someone suggest using more inclusive language in the Sunday worship service. What does that mean? Is it really necessary?

You're invited to delve more deeply into this important topic at "Our Words Matter: A Discussion on Using Inclusive Language." Hosted by First Congregational Church of South Haven and Phoenix Community Church of Kalamazoo, we'll meet on Zoom to share and learn with each other. This discussion is free and open to all. Note that we've scheduled (at least) two sessions. The second meeting will be a continuation of the first, not a repeat.

March 17: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EDT
March 31: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

*An additional session could be scheduled if desired / needed.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89027161984?pwd=cUzaEM2MUFFNkFCeStyYzIPakUwdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 2716 1984
Passcode: 386444

New Book Study from our Welcoming Team

The book is "Torn" by Justin Lee. It will be a Zoom Book Study on March 28, April 4 and April 11th 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.

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. 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."

New South Haven Rams RECORD HOLDERS!!!

Jake Florey,
Kyle Bos, Ben
Meyer, Jake
Meyer!! 3:24.0 in
the 400 Free Re-
lay



Ben Meyer for a 58.32 in the Backstroke

Ben and Jake Meyer who are part of a team that set a new 200 freestyle relay breaking a 22 year old record!!!!!!

STATE BOUND SWIMMERS

Kyle, Ben, Jake, for the 100 free relay.

Jake and Ben in the 50 Free and as part of the 200 Freestyle relay

Ben for the 100 backstroke

MORE SWIMMING NEWS

Junior Diver Yamil Garcia competed in the MHSAA Division 3 Boys Swimming and Diving Regional Competition. Yamil is the lone representative from South Haven High and recently qualified by finishing in the top 8 in the SCC Conference.

Jake Meyer also qualified in the 100 free-style.

SH RAM WRESTLING

Congratulations to Felimon Saucedo for making it to regionals in wrestling.

Gabriel, Noah and Eliah Saucedo have had a very successful season of wrestling. Many 2nd place finish and some 1st place finishes! Congrats boys!

Hi all,

First of all, congrats to Kyle and Yamie for a great Conference Swim Meet last Saturday.



Here is a quick summary:

Kyle Bos, who luckily found his love for swimming, came back after a 5+ year break from our Feeder program RAC, he came back to us in his Sophomore year, touching up some technique and learning how we train at a high school level, he has done wonders for himself and our team! Kyle Dropped 1.79 in his race in the 50 Freestyle, squeezing into the top 16 with a 24..86 maintaining his 16th place position dropping milliseconds to a 24.81. Great Job, we are going places!

Yamie Garcia, who has put in many hours to train for diving, getting rides and driving him-

self to train at Allegan's pool, pulled through and scored 244.35 holding on to his 8th place position and scoring 11 points for our Rams!

That is awesome guys! Way to go!

Thank you for a great Day of Ministry/Game Night last Saturday.

We raised over \$200 for We Care and The South Haven Animal Hospital.



We spent 1 freezing hour on the Phoenix Street Island Raising Money for Warm Your Heart. A shout out to Jack who wasn't feeling well to help us on the island for the whole hour. We also welcomed Bella to our group. It was great to have her join us. Thank you to Holly Cochran for helping arrange for our speaker. Thank you to Rachel and Crystal Freeman for standing out in the cold with us and picking up the (nine!) pizzas. Thank you to Donna Saucedo for bringing the whole group and sticking around for the craziness of game night.

We had a trivia contest, scavenger hunt and hide and go seek competitions and basically everyone did well. A shout out to Jack's team for actually knowing that c stands for the speed of light and finding some awesome hiding spots (I'll never tell). A shout out to the Saucedo's group for racking up points in the trivia contest. And finally a shout out to Camborley/Olivia's team for being the best seekers.



A

big thank you to the generosity of our church family. Your support of the youth programs has always been strong and is representative of the generosity that is the hallmark of our church. A big thank you to you all.



March Birthdays

- 03/05 Raziya Williams
- 03/13 Terri Wakild
- 03/14 Gabriel Saucedo
- 03/16 Susan Murphey
- 03/17 Dea Bishop
Dorothy Peterson
- 03/18 Wes Stephens
- 03/19 Len Walter
Ana Chavarria
- 03/20 Donna Beauchamp
- 03/21 Jocelyn Saucedo
- 03/24 Tom Ruesink
- 03/24 Kathy Straits
- 03/28 Nancy Asche
- 03/28 Ted Guimond
- 03/29 Madison Nelson
- 03/31 Millicent Huminsky



We will zoom sometime in March to discuss "Finding Faith Lessons at our Jobs and School". I would like to invite parents also to discuss their job experiences with us. I'll be contacting you guys in the next week to schedule a zoom time.

Again, thank you for a great time. It was a nice mix of ministry and fun. The way life should be.

Take care. Stay healthy.

Mr. Olsen

March Anniversaries

- 03/03 Jeff & Denise Muck
- 03/23 Ed Withey & Louise Wepfer
Jason & Ahni Turner

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.



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(s) home.

_____ I will leave my plant(s) 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, which will appear in the bulletin Easter morning.

EASTER AND



HOLY WEEK

April 10th: Palm Sunday - You are a group project

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Palm Sunday Story

Palm branches will be distributed to all
Baptism of Beckham Todd Clayton

April 14th: Holy Thursday

Evening service 7 pm

Communion will be celebrated as we remember the Last Supper
Chancel Choir will sing

April 15th: Community Good Friday Service

First Assembly of God at noon

April 17th: Easter Sunday

Pastor Dick preaching

Scripture will be the Easter Story

Lots of special music

Baptism for Tom and Karen Ruesink's grandson, Tye Thomas Ruesink

FINISHING OFF APRIL WORSHIP

April 24th: Youth to lead worship

Mary Pietenpol will be our music leader for the next few Sundays