

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

March 2023



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.

OGHS is one of five specific collections through the UCC that earns our church a title Five of Five.

We will be collecting through March 19th. Envelopes will be in the pews. You can also send a check to the church marked OGHS or contribute online the month March.

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



Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Rick Olsen
Joyce Thompson
Bob Sollman
Art Ayers



Adopt-a-Days

Originally this started as a way to help our utility budget by adopting a day for paying that cost.. It was thought that \$ 25 was a reasonable amount to ask for. Many days were chosen at first; unfortunately each year its use has dwindled. We're trying resurrect this project and hope you'll help out. Gas, electric and water have all gone up this year. Gas cost is atrocious. We're still going to keep it at \$ 25, even though it certainly costs the church more than that a day.

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. You just want to donate; no problem.

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



MOVED BACK TO THE CHURCH

During Lent St. Basil church will host a fish fry on Fridays from 5-7 p.m. (except Good Friday), in the basement of St. Basil's.

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 11th.

Worship for March

Pastor Dani will be gone the first 3 Sundays of March. Tere Krueger will be supplying the pulpit during her absence.

Pastor Dani will be back to preach on March 26th.



The ONA Committee is actively recruiting volunteers to drive medical patients to appointments at Doctors' offices and treatment / therapy facilities. This initiative is coordinated through an existing program at the South Haven Senior Center that's affiliated with the nationwide *AmeriCorp Seniors RSVP* program. If we have enough people interested, the Senior Center will send their program coordinator here to the Church to explain all the details, answer any questions, and help applicants complete and submit their application that day. For more information please contact Jeff Reber at: bubbareba9@gmail.com or 630-469-3615.



WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

Hi there! What a winter...yikes!

We are heading toward spring and along with the rummage sale, some other opportunities have sprung up.

In March, a banner for Easter is on the drawing board. The banner is easy and can use all levels of talent (or lack thereof.)

Several people have mentioned a desire to become more involved with the Domestic Violence Coalition in Paw Paw. Diane Van Deurzen brought it to my attention that this group is in need of "Emergency Flight Bags" filled with the necessary items women need to flee their abusers. Unfortunately, she has first hand experience in this area. She has offered to give a presentation on the organization, which some of you are aware of and part of, as well as this particular project. Diane will provide more details on the Flight Bags, etc. As soon as I can set a date, I will let you know.

The **rummage sale** will take place in **April** after Easter.

You all know how the rummage sale rolls.

More later,
Kris Ayers 637.8762

Race Across Michigan- March 19th

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.

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 Dave Murphey, 847-471-6800.



Okay, don't let these words scare you.

Yes, we would like to put together a new photo directory. We've lost many, and gained many since the last time we did one.

This new directory right now has a greater purpose. Kris Ayers thought it would be useful to our new minister for helping place faces with names. The photos will be added to our Membership file in the church's program, Church Windows, which has other information we use.

The layout will be different than what we did last time. A page will have many photos with just the people's names. We already put out an address directory periodically because so many things can change so it won't have any of that.

We are going to try a different approach. Rather than trying to catch and take pictures at church we are going to ask you to submit a photo. Most people, especially families, take photos that contain everyone. The background is not important. It can be from a photo you used to make Christmas cards. We just ask you to try and submit one with everyone.

Send your photo to the church at:

church@uccsouthhaven.com

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

We would like to have this pictorial completed by May 1st. You'll have plenty of time to find a recent one, or make a new one.

Thanks so much!

End of Year Reports

Did you grab a copy in the Narthex? If not, I encourage you to do so. And of course, once you look at it and have any questions please give the office a call so those can be addressed.

Within this report there are two pages; one is the Memorials, and the other is various, what we call, Special Funds. These funds are located in the church's Savings Account.

Below you see its name and its purpose.

BELL CHOIR MUSIC

This is to be used for items related to the Handbell Choir

COURAGE GRANT

The grant is to help provide publicity for events the church was promoting. Some was used to print up the ONA brochures, as well as Diane & Lisa's concerts.

DEFIBRILLATOR

To purchase pads that have expired.

DISCRETIONARY

To assist with emergency needs of members/non-members at the discretion of the pastor.

FLOWER

To be used to provide altar flowers for the Sanctuary for Sunday worship. The "Christmas" and "Easter" flower donations deposited in this account are also to help towards the purchase of the altar flowers for these holidays. It can be used to purchase flowers for individuals for special occasions.

KITCHEN

Began as five individual memorials combined at the end of 2014. Money to be used for Fellowship Hall Kitchen projects.

LIBRARY

Used to purchase books and resources for the church library.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

To be used to purchase name plates for the Memorial Tree and any other upkeep necessary for the garden area where cremains are buried.

MEMORIAL SAVINGS INTEREST

Any interest that the Savings Account earns.

MISSION TRIPS

Donations given to support trips that the church takes.

SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS

(was begun prior to 2004)

Funds are used for any improvements that are made in the Sanctuary.

SCOUTING (sponsored by FCC)

For expenditures relating to Scouting.

THURSDAY NIGHT SUPPER

To be used for any supplies or food/drink needed.

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS

Money that has not been specified for a purpose by the family or any memorial that is \$300 & under.

YOUTH

To be used for the improvement of facilities, education materials and activities for the youth of our church. Also, general donations and any fundraisers that the youth do to be used for future mission trips or other possible events.

March Birthdays

03/16 Janet Danczyk
03/14 Gabriel Saucedo
03/16 Susan Murphey
AmirahKay Hogle
03/17 Dea Bishop
Dorothy Peterson
03/18 Wes Stephens
03/19 Len Walter
03/20 Donna Beauchamp
03/21 Jocelyn Saucedo
03/24 Tom Ruesink
03/24 Kathy Straits
03/28 Nancy Asche
03/28 Ted Guimond
03/31 Millicent Huminsky

March Anniversaries

03/03 Jeff & Denise Muck
03/15 David & Dani Veenstra
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 2nd**.

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.