



THIS SUNDAY

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent we will hear the familiar story of the Prodigal Son—which can also be told as the story, the parable of the two sons and their loving father. Pastor Dick will speak about all three of these individuals for what it can say to us today.

Pastor Mike and Sarah will lead the time of sharing with children. Music will be provided by our Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, along with Adam, Diane and Lisa. Music continues to play an important part of our worship.

Please plan to join us in person, or online at our Facebook page at 10:30 on Sunday. All are welcome.

Note: During Lent we will not be sharing verbal announcements at the beginning of the service. Announcements will be printed in the bulletin and on the screen. If you have an announcement to share, please get it to the church office by Thursdays.

Membership at First Congregational Church

If you are not currently a member of this church, I invite you to consider joining the church on Sunday, April 3rd during worship. Joining the church is a way of saying that this is your church home. It is a public statement that at this point in life, we pledge to walk together in faith with one another.

Sunday, March 27th, right after worship, there will be a gathering to learn more about what membership means. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Dick, Pastor

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday:

Worship at 10:30 in person and on FB
Membership Class—11:45 a.m.

Monday:

“Torn” book study—7 p.m. (Zoom)

Wednesday:

Women’s Brkfast, 9 a.m. at Six Chicks
Men’s Breakfast, 9 a.m. in FH
Prayer Group, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Adult Class, 7 p.m. (Zoom only)

Thursday:

Men’s Coffee, 9 a.m. in Lounge
Thurs. Night Supper, 6 p.m. (drive-thru)
Discussion on Using Inclusive
Language, 6:30 (Zoom)

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

10 a.m. to Noon—Food Pantry

Church Office Hours

9:30—1:30 p.m.

Contact the church office if you are interested in joining any of these events.

Our Words Matter:**Discussion on Using Inclusive Language**

Everyone at First Congregational of South Haven is encouraged to join us for this online discussion as we explore more inclusive language as a church. 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.

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.

See connection information below:

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89027161984?pwd=clUzaEM2MUFFNkFCeStyYzIPakUwdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 2716 1984

Passcode: 386444

Tuesday Prayer Group

If you have prayer requests, please let the church office know. These will be added to the Tuesday and Sunday lists.

Please hold the following in your prayers:

Lori Tupper
Margaret Guimond
Sharon McNicholas
Elsie Hoffman
Mike Livovich

The people of Ukraine.

Grieving

Family of Chrystal Smith

There will only be a visitation on April 1st, 4-6 p.m. at Filbrandt Chapel.

Please keep in your prayers our brothers and sisters at **First Congregational (ONA) in Kalamazoo.**

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

New Book Study from our Welcoming Team

Our new Book Study starts this coming Monday. You do not have to read the book to participate. There are extra copies of the book at the church. The book is “Torn” by Justin Lee. It will be a Zoom Book Study held on March 28th, April 4th and 11th from 7:00–8 p.m.

The study will be led by Joyce Hagen-McIntosh and Marcia Claggett. Contact Mike Tupper for the Zoom link. It is the Personal Meeting Room link that he has used for other groups.

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.

The Team is encouraging people in our church to join us for the discussion even if they have not read the book.

Young Adult Ministry (18-55 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 michaeljamestupper@yahoo.com for the Zoom invite.

Maundy/Holy Thursday

A service will be held on April 14th in observance of Maundy Thursday. This service is a part of Holy Week and reminds us of the last days of Jesus’ life here on earth. The service will include communion and telling the story of Holy Week.

To aid in telling these stories, we are in need of some props. Please let Pastor Dick know if you have any of these items that we could use that night:

Jar of Ointment, a sword (real or fake), a photo. Poster or metal sign of a Rooster, a Money Bag.

Worship will be in the sanctuary at 7 pm

ADOPT-A-DAY



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.

Youth Ministry

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

Children's Ministry

Sunday School led by Sarah Peterson will be 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.

Music Note—What is your favorite hymn? During the month of May, Mary Pietenpol will be playing the piano. Each service will start with a hymn sing. Send your favorite hymns to the office so that they can be included.

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

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.

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