

## **The First Sunday in Lent - Our theme for Lent is "Good Enough"**

We live in a day and age where it seems 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.

This Sunday morning we will introduce that theme. Our scripture lesson is a traditional one for Lent, Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness and being tempted. In some ways Jesus is tempted to have it all....and it seems that he responds by saying that what he has is good enough. The story is found in Luke 4:1-13.

Communion will be celebrated. The young children will offer a special song at the end of the service. Adam, Diane and Lisa will offer our music.

*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.*

### **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 seventh grade. They have been studying the service of Holy Communion in preparation for their sharing with us during worship this coming Sunday. They will also be singing this Sunday.

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

#### **Sunday:**

Worship at 10:30 in person and on FB

#### **Tuesday:**

Mission board mtg., 6 p.m. (in person)

Trustee meeting, 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 FH

Thurs. Night Supper, 6 p.m. (drive-thru)

**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.



**Women's Fellowship News**

There will be a Women's Fellowship meeting in Fellowship Hall March 10 at 1:00. The main purpose will be to discuss the retirement party plans and deadlines, as well as catching up. All women and friends are welcome to attend and help with this project. Monetary gifts may be made to the office, sign up for food, set up, and kitchen help, etc. will be available in the next few weeks, Stay tuned!

**Race Across Michigan— March 20th**

**The University of Michigan Runners** are coming back! For many years we have hosted some 60 to 70 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. As of today they are up to 90 runners.

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.

### **Our Words Matter:**

#### **Discussion on Using Inclusive Language**

#### **Our Words Matter**

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 in 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.

*See connection information below and the two dates.*

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

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:

Ross McNicholas

Lori Tupper

Jeffrey Dick

Bonnie Deke

Margaret Guimond

Sharon McNicholas

Elsie Hoffman

Chris Thompson

Donna (Becky Mudd's mother-in-law who had a stroke)

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

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## 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.

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### **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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."

### **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. Contact Pastor Mike at [michaeljamestupper@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeljamestupper@yahoo.com) for the

Zoom invite.



### **Michigan Conference UCC**

A Special Meeting of the Michigan Conference has been called for the election of a New Conference Minister. The candidate is The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, is currently the Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church in Dubuque, Iowa. She is a nationally recognized preacher, teacher and writer who cares deeply about clergy and congregations.

This special meeting will take place on Saturday, March 19th @ 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. To participate, please contact the church office.

### **Mask Wearing**

The Church Council has reviewed the precautions we are taking during the pandemic. They continue to recommend mask wearing inside the building, but it is not mandated at this time. Some will choose to wear a mask and others will not. There is no right or wrong in this matter and people are urged to respect the decisions that others make.

### **Sanctuary Notes**

From Pastor Dick: Being in a wheelchair has given me some new perspective on our building. In the sanctuary, there really is no place for a wheelchair. I have brought this up to the Trustees. The Trustees had already been looking at other issues with the pews in the sanctuary regarding safety, especially in the case of an emergency. At the February Council meeting, there was discussion on removing the two front pews and creating space for wheel chairs by removing a partial pew. The Council will review this again at its March meeting. If you have comments on this, do speak to a member of the Trustees or send a note to Elaine Fluck, Church Moderator.

Along those same lines, using a restroom in the church while in a wheelchair is

very difficult. That, and covered entrances to the building, will be looked at by the Trustees in the coming year.

### **Youth Ministry**

Rick Olsen led an amazing Day of Ministry event last Saturday. There were 15 older youth and 4 younger youth and seven adults. They raised over 200 dollars for We Care and the Animal Hospital. Thanks to our youth for their service.

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#### Pastors

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Music Directors: Diane & Lisa VanDeurzen-Otey