

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

May 2019

During May, the theme of our worship will be, "Heaven on my Mind". During the first 3 Sundays we will explore ideas and thoughts about heaven.



May 5th What does the Bible say about heaven? What it looks like, where it is, and when do people go there?

Worship will also include the celebration of communion.

May 12th Have you read or seen a story about people who believed they have died, gone to heaven and came back to life? What do you think about those stories? What do those stories tell us about heaven?

It is also Mother's Day and the Diaconate will have a rose for every woman in church.

May 19th What have we learned? What do we believe? Will take stock of our beliefs on heaven.

This is also the Sunday that we celebrate our church school and teachers.

May 26th Memorial Day Weekend. We will celebrate memorial gifts given in the last 6 months as we also remember those who have died.

May 11, 2019



Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Healing

Patty Gruber
William Brennen
Michael Hoyt
Miriam Dick

Grieving

Family of Mary Ann Overhiser

Family of Dave Henry



Adopt-a-Days from April

April 21st, in celebration of Easter,
given by Women's Fellowship

**Sign up for your favorite day(s) of
May. See the calendar in the
Narthex!**

Flowers for Mom

Mother's Day is just around the corner (Sunday, May 12th) and how about giving Mom the gift of flowers in the church gardens. We are offering a selection of flowers that will be planted by the landscaping committee.

Please see the display in the Narthex for flower selection and prices.

For more information see Margaret Guimond or Keri McGarr.

Easter Decoration Fund

In memory of...

- ...**Karen K. Cooper**, from Rev. David G. Cooper
- ...**Jessica Morris**, from Sharon, Ken, and Chloe McNicholas
- ...**Valeria Gillett & Faith Benson**, from Sue & John Gillett

In honor of...

-**our family**, from Lynn & Jeffrey Dick
- ...**our children**, Todd and Eric, from Karen & Tom Ruesink



Please come help!

May 25-31st

Contacts

*Mike Nelson 214-6846
Bob Linderman 214-2550*

Heaven on My Mind - Adult Class

On the first three Sundays in May, the Adult Class will be discussing scriptural background for heaven and more. All are welcome to these lively discussions each Sunday at 9:30 in the lounge.



It is our responsibility to help restock the W.C. Baby Pantry located at Peace Lutheran Church. As of right now the immediate and constant need is for diapers in size LARGE.

Once the office know of any other needs they will be listed in the weekly bulletin.

Feeding America Trucks

Normally the Food Pantry here at FCC takes on two Feeding America Trucks a year; one in the spring and one in the fall. This year the parking lot is going to be busy. Financially speaking the Mission Board is sponsoring two trucks, while the Food Pantry sponsors one. The other was by an individual donor.

As the saying goes 'many hands make light work' is so true when it comes to holding a Food Truck distribution. We will have an announcement prior to the truck coming and IF YOU CAN HELP please let John or Sue Gillett know. They need to make sure they have the 'many hands' showing up.

Below are the dates—please mark your calendars! All distributing begins at 11 a.m.

Monday, May 13th
Friday, June 7th
Thursday, September 5th
Monday, October 21st

Church Membership

Are you interested in joining FCC? If so, we will be receiving new members on May 19th during worship. Do speak to Pastor Dick for more information.

Church School News

There are three more Sundays of Church School. The children will be taking photographs around the church and then framing them as a way of showing God's love. Ted and Margaret Guimond will be leading this project. The photographs will be on display on May 19th.

Funeral Dinners

Many thanks to everyone who has helped serve at the funeral dinners that have been held recently. There were large crowds following the services for the families of Karl Barden and David Henry. This is such an important ministry and our community is blessed to have so many willing workers. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Our first Highway Clean Up on M-140 is in the bag - all 50 bags full! Seventeen folks turned out on a sunny Saturday to clean and pick up trash on this 2.1 mile section of M-140. This was a great way to celebrate Earth Day and to give back to the community. We will do this again this summer.



Confirmation Class of 2019

Our congratulations to the 10 members of this year's Confirmation Class: Benjamin Meyer, Jacob Meyer, Camborley Gleason, Chloe McNicholas, Yamil Garcia, Felimon Saucedo, Sophia Cochran, Kyle Bos, Katherine Brennen, and Liam Cochran. They have worked hard all through the year helping to lead worship and participate in service projects. They were confirmed on April 28th. In addition, Chloe McNicholas was baptized that day as well.

One of their projects was words to describe God. That art work is on display in the Narthex at church. Many thanks to Donna Schnepf for providing the lettering.

Do welcome these newest members of our church.

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 or 637.8762) if you want to sign up now or have questions.

Church Council Moderator—Denise Muck

Hi Everyone,

As the Church Council progresses with this year's planning and priorities we are happy to know that our Church Family is growing! Please step forward with any ideas you may have to enable us to include more non-members in our activities. Search your hearts with the following questions. Why do I like to attend our Church? Why do I find it difficult to draw my friends and family with me? What can I do to communicate these thoughts to our Church leaders and help with the answers?

We are continuing to look for IDEAS and other input from our Church Family. Please don't be shy, if you have an idea to share bring it forward!! Keep your eyes and ears open for some of the great new activities for families and outreach to the community. We are hoping to start some Outreach Sundays like we have done in previous years. Watch for updates. Please don't be shy in asking fellow Church Members or Friends to join us in these activities!!

*Thank
you*

Thank you so much for all the items that were donated to the Personal Care Pantry! These items will help many families that are in need of them. Your generous support to the pantry is greatly appreciated!

God bless,
Marion Abernathy
Coordinator for Personal Care Pantry

It is impossible to express the fullness of love and support you all have given me since my husband Dave and I began the journey with cancer in late 2017. Most importantly, your support these past couple of months.

To be allowed the time away from work was wonderful enough. Total support from Jeffrey and all of you, without even a hesitation. The Council then approved for me to be paid during that time, which brought me to tears (ask Jeffrey).

Although we did not know how long Dave would be with us our main goal was for him to be here for our daughters wedding on April 6th. Joanne, and her fiancée Brady, had been in the very beginning stages of planning a 2019 fall wedding. When we broke the news to the kids it was very important for Joanne to have her daddy walk her down the isle. So Joanne and Brady moved up the date to April 6th.

We had been anticipating at least 3 months, maybe more, with Dave. With some medical complications along the way it was evident that he would probably not be with us much longer than the wedding. In fact, we weren't sure he would even make that. So Joanne and Brady decided to have a very private ceremony at Dave's and my home, just in case. Jeffrey officiated it for us.

With God beside us He did allow Dave to be with us April 6th. Unfortunately, he was not well enough to withstand the energy needed to be at the wedding/reception itself.

Amongst all of this FCC still supported us by people bringing dinners and goodies to eat. Then Jeffrey gave me a check, the LOVE offering, that many of you contributed to. Again, I am so grateful and brought to tears.

Most people only experience the love and support of one church family. I am very lucky and blessed to have two. My home church of St. Basils'

AND YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*God bless you all,
Victoria*

Looking at May

Lay Assistant

5– Don Kitchin
12– Sue Murphey
19– Larry Wittkop
26– Elaine Fluck

Acolytes

5– Camborley Gleason
 Chloe McNicholas
12– Ben Meyer
 Jake Meyer
19– Kyle Bos
 Erin Bos
26– Katherine Brennen
 Donnell Thomas

Usher Captains

Barb Wittkop
Zach Hanner

Nursery

5– Nancy Daugherty/Erin Bos
12– Linda Olsen/Yamil Garcia
19– Virginia and Sam Guzman
26– Elaine Kitchin/Kitty Brennen

Hospitality

5–
12–
19–
26–

Financial Counters

5– Aaron Strebeck
 Wes Stephens
12– Ted Guimond
 Dave Daugherty
19– Mike Nelson
 Terry McGarr
26– Chris Valentine
 Doug Gruber

Birthdays

1– Ann Gruber
4– Karen Ruesink
4– Josiah Trimble
6– Amy Crews
7– Tim Larson
7– Sierra Garber
13– Shirley Sollman
15– Peggy McClendon
16– Aaron Strebeck
16– Erin Bos
17– Beth Keithly
17– Myles Daugherty
20– Camborley Gleason
22– Donna Harper
24– Mike Nelson
29– Greg O’Niel
31– Robert Peterson
31– Juliet Gibson



Anniversaries

1– Greg & Marian O’Niel
7– Ted & Margaret Guimond
15– Bill & Patty Brennen, 20th
20– Jerry & Ann Gruber
21– Tony & Pat Martorano
25– Craig & Chris Arms
27– Steve & Kam Daugherty, 20th
27– Michael & Amy Crews