

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
South Haven, MI



May 2024

CARRIE NEWCOMER
IN CONCERT
THURSDAY, MAY 2ND,
7 P.M.
Doors open at 6 p.m.

To celebrate our hosting Carrie Newcomer in concert on May 2, I thought you might enjoy and be inspired by quotations from three songs on her most recent albums:

Here's a clear space I have chosen
Where the denseness of this world
opens,
Where there's something holding
steady and true,
Regardless of me or you...

I'm learning to live with what takes time
No ribbon across some finish line
Stop feeling I'm always a day behind
I'm learning to live with what takes time
I'm learning to sit with not knowing
When I don't see where its going
Cool my heels and start slowing
I'm learning to sit with not knowing

From "I'm Learning to Sit With Not Knowing" (Carrie Newcomer). Included on the album *The Point of Arrival* (Available Light Records, 2019).

It's all mystery and motion,
How the wheels of this world open.
There were gentle rains and summer
storms

On the day that you were born.
In the prayers and psalms that
whisper through the trees,
In the secret places only God
can see.
In the things we feel that cannot
be said,
We all hold hands and bow our
heads.

Seasons pass and seasons grow
On the day that you were born.
There were things we'll never know
On the day that you were born.
But love is all and love is true
On the day that you were born.
And love will always welcome you
On the day that you were born....

From "On The Day You Were Born" (Carrie Newcomer). Included on the album *Until Now* (Available Light Records, 2021).

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Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Bonnie Deke
Janet Danczyk
Barb Musgrove
Linda Olsen
Joyce Thompson

God 
Answers
Prayers



May 14th

As the saying goes, 'many hands make light work', is so true when it comes to holding a Food Truck distribution. If you can help, please let Scott Raue know. 332-4233.

Workers would arrive about 11:30 to help set up. All distributing begins at Noon.



(Newcomer song cont'd)

There is news of the world and news of
the heart,
Stories we tell parcel and part.
It will all unfold, the teller and the told,
The stories that will heal us and the
ones we let go

There's a big wide sky filled with
stars
That feels so close but feels so far.
I'm tired of all the rage, tired of all
the worry,
I'm looking for some peace, trying
not to hurry,
I'm leaning into something abso-
lutely sturdy,
I'm ready for a great wild mercy.
A great wild mercy.

From "A Great Wild Mercy" (Carrie Newcomer).
Included on the album *A Great Wild Mercy*
(Available Light Records, 2023).

If you like the songs you hear in
concert, or if you find what you have
read here stimulating, please consider
supporting Carrie Newcomer's liveli-
hood by buying a recording, a book, or
another form of "merch!" Check out
her website: carriewcomer.com.



Family Fellowship Night - Pizza—Movie—Popcorn

Join us Sunday, May 5th at 5 p.m. for a
fun evening! We'll have pizza and sal-
ad first. Then we will sit back, enjoy
some popcorn and a movie.

The committee just asks you to help
and give a donation towards the cost
of the pizza.

Church Continuity news: SAVE OUR CHURCH!

Multiple "Task" Groups are now
meeting to explore and then imple-
ment, where possible, options for
bringing in more income to the
church. Task groups are addressing
issues related to creating a building
"event" rental opportunity for non
members; increased parking fees for
use of our parking lot; grant writ-
ing; learning what other churches in
this situation have done; exploring if
we can consolidate with other area
churches; exploring possible future al-
ternatives for our church, should we
not be able to maintain here; and
more! There's a lot of good energy at
work!

An "Oversight Steering Committee"
group, currently consisting of Dea

Bishop, David Frey, Doug Gruber and Ted Guimond, is working on tying the loose ends together, working with the Task groups, and strategic planning. They're meeting multiple times montly, to evaluate next steps/actions. We anticipate having some form of an update board in the Narthex, as well as other forms of updates. Have an idea? Let Dea, David, Doug or Ted know.



Church Constitution & Bylaws

Bylaws-- time to revise again!

Our bylaws were written for a time when we had a much larger membership. As such, they need to be re-evaluated, and brought up to speed for where we are now. A group is starting to work on them-- are you interested, want to have a say, have input or thoughts? Please reach out to: Dea Bishop, Doug Gruber, Ted Guimond or Marge Lampe.

Memorial Committee

We're seeking a Member at Large (i.e., not representing a current board) to serve on the Memorial committee. This committee gets to decide how to spend money! They don't have regular meetings per se.

The committee asks for any requests from the boards/committees/wider church, and evaluate if they can be purchased out of our Memorial Funds.

Interested? Willing? Please reach out to Dea Bishop. 269-207-8233

Rummage Sale Wrap Up

Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce \$2025.09, with some outstanding IOUs, was made at their rummage sale a few weeks ago.

Thanks to donations placed on the right table, quality items, help with staging and selling, Men's Fellowship table set up and bringing up early bird items, our sale progressed fairly easily. Our shoppers were generous when buying their treasures. We are grateful for all this support.

Our next sale will be in the fall (Sept.?) featuring fall and winter items but accepting all seasons. We'll keep you posted.

Memorial Garden

A few years ago there were some in the congregation that had asked if they could have their ashes buried on the church grounds. No such area existed. So, a committee was formed to explore this and the result is an area located along the west side of the building, designated for the specific use as a memorial garden.

When it initially started the thought was how to best share those names whose ashes have been buried. A local artist,

Kayla Ridley, was asked to create a design with ideas that had been presented. The final project is a large green tree, with some background scenery of Lake Michigan included. It is beautiful and is located in the foyer off of the office wing.



The cost to have your ashes placed in the memorial garden is \$ 250. This includes the cost of the name plate for the memorial plaque and the up-keep of the Memorial Garden.

This arrangement can be set up anytime by contacting the church office.

Trustees' Update

The trustees have returned to the practice of weekly counting of the offerings collected. This decision was based on feedback we received.

Now that we have returned to the old practice, we need to ask for some help. We need some volunteers who would help count occasionally. You would always be paired with a trustee who will use the computer. Your job would be to read aloud the info from checks and giving envelopes so the trustee can enter the info into the

computer. You will also help in the double-check process.

The time commitment is typically an hour after church. Those interested in helping are asked to contact Doug Gruber. Your occasional assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Any volunteer will keep the giving information under strict confidentiality.

Birthdays

- 4– Karen Ruesink
- 13– Shirley Sollman
- 15– Peggy McClendon
- 16– Aaron Strebeck
Erin Bos
- 17– Beth Keithly
- 18– Lisa VanDeurzen-Otey
- 19– David Campbell
- 20– Camborley Gleason
- 23– Diane VanDeurzen-Otey
- 24– Mike Nelson
Marge Lampe
- 29– Debbie Walter

Anniversaries

- 7– Ted & Margaret Guimond
- 21– Tony & Pat Martorano



APRIL FAMILY NIGHT





Open Mic Night!

Wednesdays 6pm

May 22

June 26

July 24

**For all ages: Music, Poetry,
Storytelling**

Contact Diane & Lisa to schedule your performance
dianeandlisa@owlsnestmusic.com

First Congregational UCC



651 Phoenix St.

South Haven

In partnership with:

