

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

August 2018

AUGUST 19th
2- 5 p.m.
OPEN HOUSE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OF MINISTRY PASTOR DICK
HAS SHARED
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

We hope you will stop by at anytime between 2-5 p.m. and share this special time with him.

Besides serving our church for 25 years Pastor Dick has been involved in many other organizations in our community; Scouting, Kiwanis, serving as a board member for Center(ed) on Wellness, and amongst many boards through the United Church of Christ.



The community is invited to this celebration.

August 22nd - BLAST At the Beach!

The final summer BLAST will be held at Pilgrim Haven Beach. (This is located on 18th Avenue, off of 77th Street).

This is the site of the former church camp that was operated by the United Church of Christ. There is good parking and easy access to the beach on a concrete path.

Activities will include sand castle making, some beach games, and a picnic dinner (hot dogs, chips, drinks and watermelon). The evening will end with a vesper service on the beach at 7 p.m.

Come for the whole evening. Come for dinner and Vespers. Bring a beach chair or towel to sit on. If you want to go for a dip in the water, you are on your own!

Invite some friends: You can help by inviting a friend or two to attend this evening. Personal invitations are the best. A wonderful way to celebrate near the end of summer.



Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Steve Siler
Marilyn Miller
Nancy Garber



Congratulations to Terri Perry and Joseph Deaver who were married in the Chapel on July 16th.

It was nice that Terri came back to South Haven to exchange her marriage vows here at First Congregational Church.

Terri and Joseph are living in Douglas, Wyoming.

Adopt-a-Days from July

July 4th—celebrating America's Independence, given by Women's Fellowship

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

Pastor Dick on vacation

Pastor Dick will be vacation through August 6th.

During this time, Rev. Mary Beth Moran Cross will be available if a pastoral need arises, whether it be hospitalization, a funeral or other needs. Please contact the church office or the chair of the Diaconate (Ann Raue) if you need assistance.

Thursdays she will have office hours from 10-11 a.m. and a Bible Study from 11-Noon.

Mary Beth is ordained in the United Church of Christ and serves as the Chaplain/Spiritual Care Coordinator at PACE of Southwest Michigan in St. Joseph.



Please come help!

August 18-24

Contacts

Mike Nelson 214-6846
Bob Linderman 214-2550

SUMMER WORSHIP will continue in the Chapel at 8:30 and 10:30. Both services will be followed by refreshments in the lounge.

August 5th

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services. Rev. Mary Beth Moran Cross will be preaching

The Games We Play - Part 2

Continuing from July, Pastor Dick will share some of his favorite board games and weave that into this summer sermon series.

August 12th - Monopoly

Scripture focus: Acts 1:1-11

August 19th - Candyland

Scripture focus: Luke 24:36-48

August 26th - Twister

Scripture Focus: Hebrews 12:1-2

Mission Board focus

AUGUST FOOD DRIVES: The Mission Board is asking for tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, ravioli and peanut butter. Our goal is 100 containers of each.

You will find a display at the Chapel entry. Please remember to add these items to your grocery list when shopping in August.

BLAST: Last year the Mission Board hosted a picnic for those in need of fellowship and food. This year the Mission Board decided to help with the BLAST program instead. The first BLAST held June 27th was a great success. We look forward to helping with the next two.

MISSION BOARD LETTER: Hopefully you all had a chance to read the letter included in last month's newsletter. If not, please find it and take the time to read it. We need your input. If we don't hear from anyone, we assume we are doing a GREAT job.

Thank you all for your generous support of missions.

God Bless,
Mission Board



*The South Haven Rotary Club presented their 2018 Community Service Award to **John and Sue Gillett** for their many years of leadership of the We Care Food Pantry. They are pictured during the Rotary annual dinner with Rotarian Scott Mark, chair of the club's Recognition Committee.*

Congratulations and thank you for your leadership here at First Congregational Church.

Touch the Truck

To kick off the fall, we are planning to hold an event called "Touch the Truck" on Sunday, September 9th. This event will feature a variety of vehicles that people can come and see and touch - and maybe even sit in them.

We need your help! We are looking for a variety of vehicles to have here in our parking lot. From work vehicles, to construction equipment to all sorts of vehicles. If you have a vehicle you could bring, or know someone, please let us know. We would love to have 8 to 10 vehicles.

On that Sunday, we will serve hotdogs and chips and let people explore the vehicles in the lot. This would be after worship from 11:45 to 2 p.m. The church will be open for tours to show case our Church School program and other ministries. We will have brochures to hand out to everyone who attends. The event will be free.

We are also looking for a team of four people to coordinate the day. Please contact the church office or Pastor Dick if you are able to help in any way.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Serving in the Governor's Honor Guard at Fort Mackinac in July was William Brennen, Yamil Garcia, Felimon Saucedo and Joseph Nelson from Troop 188. All members here at the church.

William Brennen's Eagle Project

Check out the CE Closet downstairs to see the work that William Brennen has been doing for his Eagle Project; Ted Guimond is his mentor. Pictures next month!

Zach Hanner

was recognized in June before he left for Basic Training in Oklahoma. He has enlisted in the Reserves. He will complete this program in August and return to South Haven for his senior year.

We invited all veterans to come forward to pray with Zach during worship.

His address is:

RAI, Hanner, Zachary
2 PLT, Echo Btry 1-79th FA
6007 Rothwell Street
Fort Sill, OK 73503



Church School this Fall

The Ten Commandments is the theme for September. Holly Cochran will be the lead teacher for this session.

Paul and Silas in Prison will be the theme for October with Ted and Margaret Guimond being the lead teachers.

We look forward to another exciting year of learning.



William and Joe were serving for their 3rd and final year at Fort Mackinac in the Governor's Honor Guard. They both received an Award of Merit.

Looking Ahead to September

Lots of plans in place for September. Here is a brief look.

September 2nd: Labor Day Weekend
End of Summer worship schedule

September 9th: Fall Kick Off
Touch the Truck Event and Church School Open House.

September 16th: Church School - Rotation
First Confirmation Class: Pizza Lunch with Parents and Youth

September 23rd: First Stewardship Gathering after church.

September 30th: Bibles Presented to Confirmation Class.

Second Stewardship Gathering after church.

October 7th: World Communion Sunday
Stewardship Celebration

Confirmation

All youth in grades 7th through 9th who would like to be a part of the Confirmation Group are encouraged to contact Pastor Dick.

This program will officially start on Sunday, September 16th. There will be some materials available at the end of August.

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

A new address directory will be available soon. This directory includes your individual e-mails. Please, please review all the information for your family. Any discrepancies, please contact the church office.

Many people in the congregation rely on that information so it is important for the information to be accurate.

Our hope is to have that directory also available electronically.

The 2nd quarter Giving Statements will be available early August. Again, please review them and report any discrepancies to the church office. Better to catch them now, rather than later.



At a Rotary Club meeting in July, Eagle Scout Elian Garcia paid tribute to his mentor, Rotarian Art Ayers. Elian presented Art a handcrafted plaque to show his appreciation. Art and Elian are both members here at First Congregational Church and we are so proud of them.

This past winter Elian Garcia worked on his Eagle Scout project to place an AED device in the Bangor and South Haven libraries. He completed that project and earned his Eagle Rank in a special ceremony in June here at the church.



A request for two bookcases was made and the Memorial Committee approved using monies from the Leo Cummins and Stella Kelley memorials to make it happen.

Our very own Jeff Muck, who is an excellent builder/carpenter, took on the task to build the bookcases. Aren't they spectacular!

They are located in the Lounge.



Looking at August

(all information below pertains to the 10:30 a.m. service only)

Acolytes

We do not schedule during the summer but if you come to a service, and would like to serve, please see Janice Peterson.

Hospitality

(sign up in the Lounge)

Financial Counters

5— Patti Brennen
Marcia Claggett
12— Ted Guimond
Terry McGarr
19— Mike Nelson
Jeff Reber
26— Chris Valentine
Wes Stephens



Birthdays

08/03 Sarah Campbell
08/05 Joan Gruber
08/08 Cindy Bixler-Crawford
08/10 Doug Schnepf
08/11 Jerry Gruber
08/15 Dianne Cox
08/16 Glenn Cowles
08/17 Dixie Capps
08/18 Novella Barden
08/18 Liam Cochran
08/24 Doug Gruber
08/25 Denise Muck
08/26 Donna Schnepf
08/26 Maxwell Cowles
08/28 Avery Hoyt
08/29 Donna Capps
08/29 Thomas Lyon

Anniversaries

08/05 Paul & Ethel Stephenson
08/10 Wes & Elaine Stephens—**55th anniversary**
08/11 John & Sue Gillett
08/13 Glenn & Mary Pietenpol
08/15 Rick & Linda Olsen
08/18 Glenn Cowles &
Sherry Variell
08/20 Rick & Cathy Siler
08/24 Tom & Karen Ruesink—**55th anniversary**
08/31 Jack & Millicent Huminsky
08/31 Michael Hoyt &
Sarah Campbell