

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

October 2019

LET'S GO ON A HAYRIDE



Hayride at the Roods
October 6th @ 1:30 p.m.

The annual Hayride at the Rood Farm is ready to go. Hay rides will begin at 1:30 p.m. Bring a friend to this fabulous event.

This event has been taking place for over 30 years. It is an enjoyable event for all ages.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

The Mission Board will be collecting the NIN offering between Oct. 6th and Oct. 27th. You will find envelopes in the pew beginning October 13th.

Prayers for continued healing of our church family:

Rick Olsen
Joan Gruber
Ann Raue
Rick Siler—Countryside

Shirley Sollman
Steve Siler
Carolyn Willobee



Celebration

The marriage of Jacob Perry and Sara Barringer this past month.

New Members will be received the third Sunday in October.

If you are interested in joining the church, or learning more about the UCC, please speak with Pastor Dick.

Be a part of First Congregational Church fully by affirming your faith on October 20th.

Those who joined the church in the month of October in the past:

David & Nancy Daugherty
Beth Keithly
Ken McNicholas
Rick & Linda Olsen
Paul Rood



Congratulations to Michelle Strebeck and Chris Rawsky who were married here on Sept. 21st.

Adopt-a-Days from September

September 3rd, safety to all in our school district as they begin another year, given by Women's Fellowship.

September 8th, in honor of the food pantry workers, given by Cathy & Rick Siler.

September 15th, celebrating all that our Music Board does and provides. We appreciate all you do. - your friends

September 21st, in celebration of Michelle Strebeck and Chris Rawsky's wedding yesterday, given by Michelle's family.

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

Worship October 2019 - "It's a Wonderful life"

Spiritual practice feeds that part of ourselves that is oriented toward serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love and joy. But these are not always words we use to describe the role of money in our lives. In the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters that can hold up a mirror to our own relationships with money. In this four week series, we will "look" squarely in the face of our money issues in compassionate ways that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness and a whole new "outlook" on what constitutes a wonderful life.

MUSIC NOTES: Each Sunday we will use the hymn Be Thou My Vision. Verse one will be sung at the very beginning of the service. Verse two will be a part of the scripture reading. Verse three will be the Doxology each week.

October 6th: World Communion Sunday Looking Back

Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22 - Where Jesus responds to the Pharisees with "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

We will be celebrating with Christians around the world this Sunday as a sign of our unity in the Body of Christ. This will be represented in the many different types of bread used for communion.

October 13th: Looking In

Scripture: Matthew 6: 19-24 - Jesus says: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

October 20th: Looking Out

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Tells people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment.

October 27th: Looking with Gratitude

Scripture: Acts 4: 32-35 - The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common.

This is also Reformation Sunday and all are invited to **wear something RED.**

Church School News

Church School for all children in grades K through 5 will be held on October 13 and 20 during worship. The theme is "Day of the Dead." Scripture is Hebrews 11 verses 1 and 2. The class will be learning about remembering and honoring the traditions of those that have died. Kris Ayers will lead these two classes.



Adult Class

Each Sunday the Adult Class meets at 9:30 in the lounge. We will discuss the scripture of the day and watch a clip from the movie It's A Wonderful Life. All are invited.

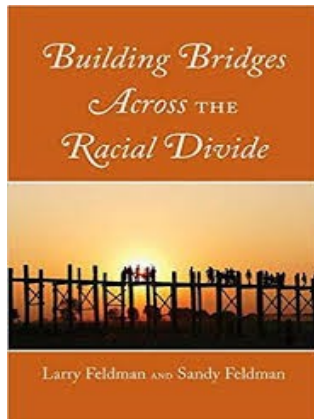
Photos for Worship!!!

What image do you think of when you think of A Wonder-Full Life? Please send any photo you have that fits this description to pastor Dick. These will be used in worship on Sundays. They can be of nature, of people, fireworks, food, whatever you think of that is Wonder-Full.

Email them to pastor@uccsouthhaven.com or bring the photo to the office. Thank you.

Feldmans book discussion Oct. 15th

Join us on Tuesday, October 15th at 11 am, as we welcome authors Larry & Sandy Feldman to the church. Their book, *Building Bridges Across the Racial Divide*, has recently been published.



The Feldmans describe their book as offering a hopeful view of how well-constructed diversity initiatives can combat entrenched racial prejudice and segregation in American life. In 1997, Sandy and Larry Feldman moved from Oak Park, Illinois to Lakeside, Michigan. Almost immediately, the couple noticed a racial divide in southwest Michigan. As a way to bridge the tension, the couple became involved in multiple diversity initiatives like All God's Children Choir, the Race Relations Council, and Calling All Color.

Their book provides an extensive review of theory and research on methods for reducing stereotypes and prejudice. It also recounts some of their efforts in the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph area to build bridges.

They are very interesting speakers and we are delighted to host them here at this free event.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl, in Christianity, is a piece of cloth blessed in honor of a saint, angel, or deceased person. They are blessed by the clergy and can be informally blessed through prayer by the laity. They are to be given to a person who is ill, injured, or in bad fortune.^[1] They may also be given to people for celebrating events such as childbirth, baptism, or confirmation. (Wikipedia)

Since its beginning in February of 2011, the First Congregational Church UCC Prayer Shawl Ministry has been creating and distributing more than forty shawls. Several Prayer

Shawls have even been created to honor a deceased loved one.

If you know of someone who has had bad fortune or perhaps a celebration in their lives, please let the office know. We would love for them to be blessed by receiving a shawl created with love and prayer.

Would you be interested in helping to make or distribute Prayer Shawls? Contact Margaret Guimond or Denise Muck.

The Lord calls us to minister in many different ways. Is this your calling?

Doing two things at once

If you like to have busy hands, bring your knitting (crocheting etc) to worship. We also have a basket of scarves started. Choose one that you like, add what you like, we only ask that you add a pattern that you complete the section. Basket is on the west wall in the coffee room.

Scarves, when finished, are added to the food pantries box of winter clothes.

Book Study to Begin

On Sunday, October 20th, I will be leading a 5-6 week book study/discussion, using the book, "How the Bible Actually Works" by Peter Enns.

Plans are to meet at 2 pm, most likely at my home.

If you've ever wrestled with the violent, contradictory, or just plain "strange" passages found in the Bible, I believe you'll find the book to be very insightful.

If interested, please call me at 637-8762 or 506-6159, so I can order the books.

-Art Ayers

Holy Hospitality Help the monsters feed the hungry

The Youth of the church are sponsoring a Halloween Maze at the church. This will take place on Halloween, Oct 31st from 5:00 to 7. The cost to enter will be a food item, to help the monsters stock the food pantry.

Besides the Maze a scary room and a room, as well as a



there will be not so scary Mad Scientist display.

All middle school and high school youth are invited to participate. They will be working on this on Sundays after worship, with the big set up day Oct 27th.

You can help the monsters: There are three ways you can help

- 1) Come dressed up in costume on Halloween.
- 2) No trick or treaters at your house? Bring some candy to hand out here at church. Your donation of candy will be greatly appreciated.
- 3) Come and help hand out cider and coffee to adults, or candy to children that evening.

Adopt a highway

A lovely fall Saturday saw 20 people, including three teenagers, walk along M-140 to pick up trash. We even found one dead raccoon that some brave soul pitched into the woods.

This was our third clean up and it took us one hour. Great work. Watch for more photos at church. We did not get a complete group photo but we were able to get most of them. We will try better next April at the next clean-up.

Many thanks to Chuck and Nancy Garber for leading this effort. Doug Gruber handed out trash bags as well. Nancy Daugherty for chauffeuring.

This is a project of the Mission Board.

ADOPT-A-DAY

In the weekly bulletin there is usually a section entitled ADOPT-A-DAY. Do you know what it's for?

How does ADOPT-A-DAY work? Pick a day, any day, and write on the big calendar in the narthex what you are celebrating or remembering. Besides writing on the calendar there are cards to fill out that are attached to the calendar. Fill one out and place it in the offering plate with your check/cash.

Contributing towards Adopt-a-day helps defray the rising costs of the utilities of the church

Dear Church Family,

Linda and I want you to know how much your prayers and support has meant to us over the past few weeks. It has been with your love and support that we have been able to find the strength to deal with a rough time. To be part of this church family has been one of the greatest blessings in our lives.

Yours in Christ, Rick and Linda Olsen



Pastor Jeffrey & the FCC congregation,

Thank you, thank you for your involvement in our Community Picnic on August 25th. Thanks for sharing your tables and the manpower to put up many of the canopies, all the tables, and for helping Emmanuel Church get their tables and chairs over to the park. And we thank your Mission Board for supplying all the hotdogs that everyone seemed to really enjoy.

Your involvement this year helped to bring together people of diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods. You helped others to be comfortable and relaxed and to meet new friends.

May you be blessed as you have blessed all of us.

Sincerely,
Beverly Brown for the Ward 1
Community Action Committee

Leaving for the winter?

Please make sure the church office has your address so that you can continue to receive any mailings from the church.

Thank you

United Church of Christ News

Michigan Conference of the
United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting
October 11th and 12th

"How Are the Children?"

Feature a keynote address by Rev. Starsky Wilson, the President and CEO of The Deaconess Foundation in St. Louis that is helping to change the lives of children in that metropolitan area. Local church delegates

and guests will also receive many takeaway resources that can be used to better the lives of children and youth in their home communities.

This will be the second year that Youth@AnnualMeeting will offer parallel programming for the youth of our churches. The goal is for youth to intersect with the annual meeting and have their own adventures. Young people will engage with the keynote speaker, participate in worship, experience the wider church and share in faith formation, fun, and fellowship. These events will include an overnight at nearby Portage UCC and a service project in Kalamazoo.

Our church can send two delegates and one youth delegate to this meeting. Addition youth and adults can also attend. Please contact Denise Muck or Pastor Dick if you are interested in attending.

Southwest Association Meeting
November 3rd in St. Joe
Need delegates for this meeting.
To be held in St. Joe.
Contact Pastor Dick



Brandon Dick and Bob Linderman
during Adopt-a-Highway cleanup

(I wonder what Bob is sharing
with Brandon?)

Looking at October

Lay Assistants

6— Sue Murphey
13— Elaine Fluck
20—
27— Don Kitchin

Usher Captains

Ann Raue & Celeste Wheeler

Nursery

6— Patty Brennen
William or Kitty
13— Lynn Dick
Keyana Dick
20— Kris & Art Ayers
27— Virginia Cooper
Samantha Guzman

Hospitality

(sign up in the Narthex)

Financial Counters

6— Mike Nelson
Marcia Claggett
13— Chris Valentine
Jeff Reber
20— Patty Brennen
Wes Stephens
27— Aaron Strebeck
Dave Daugherty

Deacons of the Month

Celeste Wheeler
214-7806

Ann Raue
639-1181

Anniversaries

10/08 David & Juanita Wellever
10/15 Robert & Janice Peterson
10/25 Michael & Laura Bos

Birthdays

10/01 Shirlee Clark
10/01 Dick Brodhagen
10/03 Josh Dick
10/05 Jasmine Dick
10/05 William Brennen, IV
10/09 Benjamin Meyer
10/09 Jacob Meyer
10/10 Bennett Larson
10/11 Midge Lewis
10/15 John Gillett
10/15 Thomas Larson
10/16 Elinor Frost
10/18 Jacob Morey
10/21 Lynda Clemons
10/23 Holly Cochran
10/25 Gail Brodhagen
10/25 Jane Strebeck
10/26 Don Kitchin
10/28 Elaine Fluck
10/31 Chuck Garber



Robert, Theresa,
Camborley Gleason