

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

South Haven, MI

September 2022



We return to our normal worship time of 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 11th.

Join us in person, or on Facebook.

Children ages 3 yrs. old -5th grade will begin **Sunday School on September 11th** with Sarah Peterson.

During worship the children will participate in a Children's Moment. Immediately after, Sarah will lead them downstairs to the lower level for an activity and learning time. The children will return upstairs as worship ends.



The great turnout after church on Aug. 28 demonstrated how much we'd all missed coffee time. It was well attended, and all enjoyed being able to once again be together for fellowship.

We'd like to continue but it takes people that will host a Sunday. Not more than two people is necessary. Even a board can share the responsibilities for a given Sunday. Talk with a friend, and sign up together for one.

(article continued inside)



“What You Don’t Know That You Don’t Know”

Most of us know Dea Bishop as someone who sings, plays the guitar and sews quilt patches each Sunday.

What we may not know is that prior to her retirement from twenty years as a social worker, Dea trained mental health workers for interacting with clients. Part of that work included conducting training groups, particularly one entitled “Implicit Bias - What We Don’t Know That We Don’t Know.”

At the August Church Council meeting Dea proposed offering that training session as part of our follow-up to the Lombard Center Program. This would be a small (about 12 people) group, designed NOT to criticize or blame, but to listen, learn, share, and better understand ourselves, and could include videos, information and conversation.

The Council, on hearing Dea’s proposal, unanimously agreed to try this idea. More details will follow in coming weeks.

It should be noted that the committee of Kris Ayers, Nancy Garber and Dani Veenstra are still talking with Lombard for follow-up suggestions from that group.

It’s getting to be that time of year

The Nominating Committee has begun filling vacancies on boards for the coming year. Your term for serving on a particular board is two years. After those two years you will be asked if you wish to serve another two years. A person is allowed 3 two year terms on the same board.

Besides a monthly meeting of approximately 1–1 1/2 hours, each board is unique as to what their responsibilities are, besides the monthly meeting.

Being on a board is an extra time, outside of group church activities, that you gives you the opportunity to not only serve the church, but it allows you to meet and learn about others in the

church that you may not know.

There is a brief written overview of what each board does that you can obtain. If you want to know more about a particular board feel free to ask the caller to send you that information before you make a final decision.

When you are called please prayerfully consider their request.



The great turnout after church on Aug. 28 demonstrated how much we’d all missed coffee time. A full house stayed - some not leaving until after 12:00.

We visited, ate and enjoyed getting to know our new Conference minister who had many favorable things to say about our church. She plans to visit all the churches in the conference so we were fortunate to be lucky number 13 on her list.

With COVID restrictions we weren’t able to hold these gatherings. So, it wouldn’t be a surprise to learn it was also a first for Diane and Lisa who’d never been upstairs to Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to Mary Pietenpol, Karen Ruesink, Sue Gillett, Margaret Guimond, Keri McGarr, Bonnie Deke, and Elaine Fluck for making this first coffee hour in two years a success.

Getting to Know Pastor Dani Veenstra

"My kitchen is my happy place" says Pastor Dani Veenstra, and those of us who've attended her second Sunday evenings know she makes great soups. As the youngest of three girls growing up in the Grand Rapids area, she had lots of cooking and baking practice.

A drive past the Veenstra home on Monroe Blvd. shows she and her husband Dave also have green thumbs. They moved here about three years ago because Dave was part of a musical group with Rev. Ron Van Lente, then minister of South Haven's United Methodist Church.

Dani has spent the last decade ministering to UCC churches in Michigan, after a career in manufacturing and business. As she tells the story, she attended a Baptist Sunday School "because the bus drove past my house," but her ministerial training was with a special UCC program.

Outside the church and Dave's music, the Veenstras can often be seen at City Council meetings where they share their love of South Haven and its neighborliness.

Family activities are also high on their priority list, with two children, three grandchildren, and a great grandchild on the way. There are also two cats, Cooper and Roxie, one of which often participated in our Church Council Zoom meetings.

Dani sews, quilts, loves to read, and especially enjoyed being a band camp mom when her two children were in school.

We welcome Pastor Dani to South Haven UCC.

Make a Joyful Noise!

It has been a year since you all welcomed us as your music directors. Thank you! Our favorite part of this journey with you is when you share your musical gifts. We love hearing you sing and play your instruments.

There are many opportunities for you to participate; singing/playing solo, in small groups, and with Chancel Choir. You could also join the Handbell Choir, directed by Ann Habicht.

Please send us an email, dianeandlisa@owlsnestmusic.com, and let us know what you would like to do. Thank you!

-Diane & Lisa

(Coffee and Conversation continues)

It's easy to do. Coffee is provided. There are paper products in the kitchen cupboard to use. You can use the dishes but you would have to hand wash and put them away.

You would just need a juice of some kind and some goodies. This can be as simple as food that you can eat with your fingers. The possibilities are endless.

This is not something we want to start and then have some Sundays not taken. A go, or no go, will be decided by September 25th once we see the sign up sheet. It's located on the north bulletin board by the adopt-a-day calendar.

**Southwest Association Meeting
November 6th - 2-4 p.m.
Phoenix Community Church
in Kalamazoo**

Need delegates
2 adult and 1 youth delegate
Contact Elaine Fluck
if interested.

AUGUST PROVIDERS

Lay Leaders

4– Don Kitchin
11– Jeff Reber
18– Dea Bishop
25– Theresa Gleason

Deacons for the month

Bob Straits
Mike Nelson

Is your birthday or anniversary missing?
Give the church office a call and let us know.



The church is not trying to offend anyone by leaving a name out. When printing the birthdays and anniversaries, we try to print names of people you would recognize through church and its activities.



09/01 Velyn Perez
09/03 Marilyn Arnott
09/08 Keyana Dick
09/11 Ron Danczyk
09/13 Melissa Spies
09/16 Kathy Campbell
09/21 Sarah Peterson
09/22 Sue Mears
09/23 Terry McGarr
09/28 Lynn Gabel
09/29 Juanita Wellever
09/30 Nancy Garber

09/04 Mark & Peggy McClendon
09/11 Aaron & Jane Strebeck, 40th
09/12 Jim & Sue Mears
09/22 Sean & Sarah Peterson, 10th

The church office likes to have the church's membership files up to date. Periodically an address directory is printed and it is nice to have the current information.

If your address changes, or you get a new phone number, please let the church office know.

SNOWBIRDS, many of you learn about your church family by email, but there are times when we send out information by snail mail and a current address of where you are is important. We want you to be as informed as possible about what's going on in your home church. Having the correct mailing address includes you being able to receive your year end giving statement, for tax purposes. .

