



# THE PARCHMENT

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
2001 NILES AVENUE, ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

OCTOBER 2011

## Turning a Corner

I feel like I went to bed on a summer night and woke up to an autumn morning. Excuse me, but who took summer? I could see and feel that the days were getting shorter and a little cooler, but I wasn't finished. And now I see that the sand-snow fence is up on Silver Beach, so it's

official. Are you ready for what's next?

One thing you learn living in Michigan: Change in the weather and the seasons is guaranteed, and although it's frequently pretty, sometimes it isn't. That prepares us for inevitable changes in life. Had any good ones lately? Any bad ones?

The Bible is full of stories about the unpredictability of life, from Adam and Eve to Jesus Christ and everything and everyone in between. If that were all it contained, it would be a pretty dismal Book. The fact is that many of those stories have saving lessons, and many others promise good news in the future, especially our BIG future, because they feature a saving God.

If you are having trouble with some life changes right now, here are a few suggestions. Following them are a few verses to buttress them:

1. Read. Read those Bible stories you are most familiar with, and find some that are new to you. At the end of this article is a suggested sampling.
2. Pray. No matter how helpless and hopeless you feel, pray whenever prayer comes to mind. Short prayers, long prayers, standing and kneeling, quiet and noisy and any kind of prayers. Include praise and questions and always remember to thank. If you're needing help, ask others to pray for you and with you.
3. Worship. Come each week for renewal with others who are there for the same reason. You can be sure that almost everyone worshiping has some bundle of difficulty strapped to their shoulders. Believe that God will lift it as you lift your heart in worship.
4. Find a listening ear. I have two of them and I will always find time to open them to you. Don't overwhelm trusted friends but remember they are trustworthy because they've proven themselves to be, so allow them to help you.
5. Serve someone. That takes our mind off from our own problems. Often because you've been through a tough time and survived, you have the strength and insight to help someone else with a tough problem.
6. Give. Even if you don't think you have much to give, there is someone who needs just what you have to offer, and by meeting that need you find renewed purpose and even joy.

### **MINISTERIAL STAFF**

Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. Bob Braman

Associate Minister  
Rev. Kathryn Nix

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

*September to May*  
9:15 a.m.  
Adult Classes

9:15 a.m.  
Jr. & Sr. High Classes

### **Held During Worship**

Children & Worship  
Ages 4 to 2nd grade

DIVE Class  
For 3rd—5th graders

**Worship**  
10:25 a.m.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday  
8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Phone:**  
(269) 983-5519

**WEBSITE**  
fccstjoseph.org

**EMAIL**  
office@fccstjoseph.org

Fall is upon us; winter is not far behind; with GREAT imagination I sniff spring on the heels of winter. Those changes we can be sure of. Others we cannot. Trust the power of God, as well as the people of strength God has placed around you, to help you navigate change. You're not in this life alone.

Dr. Bob

*Read:* 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 11

*Pray:* Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-8

*Worship:* Deuteronomy 6:4-9; John 4:16-26; Psalm 103

*Listening Ear:* Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; John 15:12-17

*Serve:* Matthew 20:20-28; 25:31-46

*Give:* 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 2 Corinthians 9

### **Bells and Voices**

**Alleluia Ringers** is a beginning handbell choir for ringers grades 5-8, as well as interested family members or beginning adult ringers. You don't need to read music to begin ringing bells. You learn as you go. We rehearse Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the Handbell Room.

The **Jubilate Ringers** rehearsal follows the **Alleluia Ringers** on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. This Choir is for experienced ringers or those who read music well. Both handbell choirs are under the direction of Paul Flyger.

And the **Chancel Choir** rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of Stephen Zork, for those of you who would like to help us all lift our voices in worship.

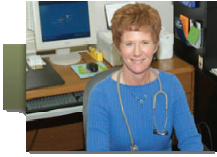
# Pastor Katie

It may be hard to imagine, but I think God is pouring more joy into my life than ever before! I watch, with amazement, at the seeds God is planting in our faith family, and I cannot help but rejoice in our awesome Savior! Here is what's on my current "Thank You, God" list:

A great start to our Wednesday night programming! Thanks to a grant from the Endowment Fund, we have Shaun Kuriata creating masterpieces in the kitchen each Wednesday evening and Felicia Leymre organizing some very fun and very silly games (I am currently a fan of octopus tag!). Paul Flyger and the Bell Choirs are creating beautiful gifts of music. Dr. Bob and Jeff Terry's class on the Bible is engaging and as well as informative. And I am having a wonderful time doing Bible lessons for all ages!

1. A new Confirmation class! Melissa Buckingham is helping me co-teach this new group of middle schoolers, and I know it's going to be an amazing year as we learn about becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. Spiritual growth popping up everywhere! Women's Bible study, Men's Ministry, Sunday morning Sunday School classes, everywhere you look there are people of all ages learning and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. A great and faithful Steering Committee. These dedicated members are giving so much time and energy to praying and faithfully discerning the growth and health of our faith family.

How can I not be excited about what God is doing in our faith family? These next few weeks during Sunday worship and Wednesday evenings we are going to focus on prayer. I invite you to spend some time in prayer, making your own "Thank You, God" list, just like I did. Spend time with your whole family praying for our church and the seeds God is planting in our individual and congregation's life. I pray every day for this faith family, for its leaders, for all the different programs and opportunities, and for God's Spirit to shine brightly as we grow and learn as disciples. "Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!"



Janel Groth, RN, FCN

It is that time of year again to start thinking about the flu vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) urges that you take the following three actions to protect yourself and others from influenza (aka: the flu).

**1. Take the time to get a flu vaccine**

- The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- The 2011-2012 flu vaccine will protect against an influenza A N2N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the H1N1 virus that emerged in 2009 to cause a panic.
- Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine as soon as the 2011-2012 vaccines are available.
- Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older.
- Vaccination also is important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to high risk people.
- Children younger than 6 months are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should be vaccinated instead.

**2. Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs**

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine).
- While sick, limit contact as much as possible to keep from infecting others.

**3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them**

- If you get the flu, antiviral drugs can treat your illness.
- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter.
- Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications.
- It's very important that antiviral drugs be used early (within the first 2 days of symptoms) to treat people who are very sick (such as those who are hospitalized) or people who are sick with flu symptoms and who are at increased risk of severe flu illness, such as pregnant women, young children, people 65 and older and people with certain chronic health conditions.
- Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. You can be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms with no fever.
- **For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).**

**All information provided by the CDC.**

**From Your Moderator  
Congregational Meeting  
October 23**

This summer the Steering Committee has prayerfully studied a book by Dan Hotchkiss, titled Governance and Ministry. Our goal has been to evaluate how Council and our Boards function and govern. Overall we have been pleased with the processes of our governing bodies, a reflection of the hard work that was started about 10 years ago. To keep up with changing generations and culture changes we would like to recommend the following change.

Having received approval from the Board of Arts and Music, as well as from our 2 music staff members, Steve Zork and Paul Flyger, we recommend that BAM no longer be considered a Board but a Committee. Council now makes this recommendation to you as the church family. In its place would be a Music and Arts Committee (MAC) made up of 3 people chosen by the Nominating Committee and voted on by the congregation each November. Like other committees, these 3 committee members would meet as needed to plan and host concerts, our regular Showcase talent show, and other projects and programs. They would call upon members of the congregation to form teams to assist them, at all times having the opportunity to consult with our music staff. Each member would serve for 3 years, with the option of serving a second 3-year term. Meeting only as needed will result in a better use of their time and resources.

**On October 23 after worship, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on this.** We believe that this will be a logical and positive change for the way we organize concerts.

Two other changes that Council has already approved involve another board and committee. First, we will allow the CE Board to go from 15 members to 5 for the next year, after which we will reevaluate. We often have trouble filling those board member positions, leaving the board short-handed. A smaller board will allow the 5 members to be the planners and visionaries, who can recruit congregational members for specific project teams as needed. Pastor Katie and a CE team highly endorse this concept.

Second, we will change the make-up of the Personnel Committee. Currently it consists of a member of BAM, Diaconate, and Trustees. The new configuration will include a member of the Trustees plus two members from the congregation. What will stay the same is the inclusion of the Moderator and the Moderator Elect, and the Ministers (who are members-without-vote of all boards and committees). Committee members would have a 2-term limit.

The Bylaws will reflect these changes and will be in the library 2 weeks prior to the October 23 meeting for review.

We love this church. We know you do, too. Thank you for helping us keep it healthy!

Paula Thompson, Moderator

## Christian Education News



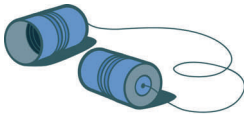
My name is Felicia Lemyre and I recently accepted the job as your Family Coordinator. I will be planning a monthly family activity and the game portion of Wednesday nights.

I also work as a middle school counselor at Schmucker Middle School in Mishawaka, Indiana, and currently live in St. Joseph and commute for work every day. I moved here at the beginning of summer 2010 with my 5 year old son, Xander, to be closer to my parents.

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio and attended Ohio State University for my undergraduate education. Following my time at Ohio State, I traveled to Nashville, Tennessee to attend Vanderbilt University.

I enjoy reading, photography, swimming, outdoor activities, traveling, spending time with friends, and of course spending as much time as I can with my son, Xander.

I have really enjoyed getting to know the kids these past few weeks and I'm looking forward to a great year. Please stop by and say, "Hi!" I am so excited for this opportunity and to get to know everyone.



Spread the Word

**Don't forget** that the fall rummage sale will take place October 6 & 7.

If you haven't signed up to help with the sale or provide food for the workers, there is still time! Stop by the bulletin board across from Pastor Katie's office and find a time that will work for you. If you have a friend who "loves" to do rummage sales, invite them to come along. Extra help is always needed.

Drop off times are as follows:

Friday, September 30, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Sunday 2nd, after worship until 1 p.m.

Monday 3rd, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday 4th, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Please be sure that your clothing is clean and clearly marked with sizes. Household appliances need to be in good working condition. Please, no TV's, telephones or computers accepted. It is helpful to the workers if you bag your donations separately.

If you can't help out during the sale, we need lots of help to pack up the items left on Friday starting at 2 p.m.



## **Beach Clean-up We Made A Difference!!**



Thank you to all who helped organize and participate on September 17 at the Lincoln Township South Beach.



(Patty & Steve Nordberg, Michelle & Kelly Vukorpa, Andrea Barowicz, Jean Bloomquist, Sue Plummer, Brian, Eli, & Asher Edlefson, Jim, Cynthia, Ashley, Kaly, and Jenna Schlipp. Steve & Elizabeth Upton helped out at Tiscornia Beach.) We were able to successfully dig out one tire and many partial bags of litter that totaled 121 pounds.

This year there seemed to be less items that needed to be removed and that is a good thing. The day was sunny, warm and pleasant. Taking care of God's world is always a pleasure!

## **Seasonal Flu Vaccine Availability**

The seasonal flu vaccine will be available on Sunday, October 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$30.00. You may pay with cash (please have the exact amount) or a check. The check should be made out to First Congregational Church.

If you have Medicare, please make a copy of your card before coming as it is needed to bill Medicare. If you can not make a copy we will do it that day.

Please call the office before Thursday, October 20 to sign up or sign up on the sheet located at the Health Center Desk. This will ensure that enough vaccine is available. If you have any questions, please call Janel, Parish Nurse at 983-5519.

## Called to Care - An Invitation to Serve

You're invited ...

- To sit and chat
- To deliver a meal
- To write a note
- To share a ride
- To be a compassionate presence

Called to Care Ministry invites you to use your gifts and your time to support those in our church family who need care and encouragement. There are a variety of opportunities to help others, on-going commitments to visit those who are homebound or in assisted-living facilities or short-term help with a meal or transportation. If you're interested in serving in this important ministry, please contact Beth Kenagy (428-3347).

***Let me give you a new command:  
Love one another in the same way I have loved you, you love one another.  
This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples -  
when they see the love you have for each other.***

**John 13:**

### August Statistical Information

Income for Aug.	\$ 33,973.83	Year-to-Date Income	\$ 293,928.88
Expenses for Aug.	<u>29,660.23</u>	Year-to-Date Expense	<u>297,098.92</u>
Gain/Loss for Aug.	\$ 4,313.60	Year-to-Date Gain/Loss	\$ -3,170.04

## October Birthdays



- 01 ~ Dan Burkhard
- 01 ~ Scott Collum
- 01 ~ Karol Paul
- 01 ~ Leah Terry
- 02 ~ Bill Burrows
- 02 ~ Nancy Conybeare
- 02 ~ Emily Ehrenberg
- 02 ~ Lois Lewis
- 04 ~ Judy Zacha
- 05 ~ Eileen Resch
- 05 ~ Mary Jane Waldenmaier
- 06 ~ Dave Brockway
- 08 ~ Nancy Fowler
- 11 ~ Midge Carr
- 14 ~ Ryan Fetters
- 14 ~ John Thomas
- 15 ~ George Jaeger
- 15 ~ Autumn Zick
- 16 ~ Curt Plummer
- 16 ~ Pat Preston
- 17 ~ Allan Johnson
- 20 ~ Virginia Jaeger
- 20 ~ Caryl Meister
- 20 ~ Bill Schalk
- 23 ~ Mark Abbott
- 24 ~ Teylor Collum
- 24 ~ John Steeb
- 25 ~ Blane Buckingham
- 26 ~ Helen Sinn
- 28 ~ Ed Eisele
- 28 ~ Jane Maddock
- 28 ~ Kay Steeb
- 29 ~ Steven Reed
- 30 ~ Susan Dietrich-Reed
- 30 ~ Russ Zick
- 31 ~ Jinny Bock

## “Young at Hearts”

We hope that you will join us for lunch on Thursday, October 20 at noon. Following lunch our program will be presented by Jim Cassidy of the **Victim Services Unit**. This unit is a trained volunteer group under the direction of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan Sheriff's Association. Jim will explain the services and what is involved with the unit.

Call the church office (983-5519) with your reservations by the 18th.

## Women's News

**Women's Fellowship** will meet on Wednesday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. All women of the church are invited to attend. Following the meeting we all go out to lunch. Please join us!

**Mary Martha Circle** will meet Tuesday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

**Mary Preston Guild** will meet Wednesday, October 12 in the Parlor. The program will be presented by the author of the ***The Red Skirt***, Pat Gibson.

## Men's Ministry

Will meet on Saturday, October 8 and 22 at 8:00 a.m.

Women's Book Study  
Tuesday, October 25 @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we discuss ***What Good is God? In Search of a Faith That Matters*** by Phillip Yancey. Through ten compelling and true stories from around the world, Yancey shares the good news of God's redemption and grace in the midst of suffering and despair. The experiences of real people reveal sustaining faith in action. This will be a meaningful discussion of another classic book from this extraordinary Christian Author. We'll see you in the Parlor on the 25th!

**Looking ahead - Tuesday, November 29, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. *The Red Skirt: Memoirs of an Ex-Nun*** by Patricia Gibson. The author will join us to share her poignant story of answering the call to enter the convent and ultimately the pain and joy in her decision to return to a secular life.

### Family Farewells

In September the following families bid farewell to family members, so we keep them in our prayers as they adjust to their loss.

- † Phyllis Root and her family on the death of her brother, Bob Williamson.
- † Jennifer Terry and family on the death of grandmother, Florence Rider.
- † Janet McLelland on the death of her husband, John.

### Nursery Schedule for October

**2nd** ~ Infant ~ Mary Griffin & Maddie Burkhard  
Toddler ~ Patty Nordberg & Kelly Vukorpa

**9th** ~ Infant ~ Norma Nisbet & Lauren Buckingham  
Toddler ~ Jennifer Terry & Elissa Capes

**16th** ~ Infant ~ Laura Fletty & Jillian Nadolski  
Toddler ~ Amanda Ramtahal & Elissa Capes

**23rd** ~ Infant ~ Ruthann Miller & Tammy Thomas  
Toddler ~ Amanda Ramtahal & Beth Kenagy

**30th** ~ Infant ~ Mary Goff & Megan Buckingham  
Toddler ~ Amanda Ramtahal & Jen Ort

Questions regarding the nursery schedule,  
please call Patty Nordberg at 429-7297