

The Parchment



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JUNE 2017

Greetings from Dr. Guerreno

Well, it happened again. There I was, feeling frazzled and hassled, unloved and overwhelmed—stop me if this sounds familiar—there I was, up to my bald spot in loose ends, bugs and goo when . . . Nothing changed. Nothing at all. Happens all the time, right? Happens all the time, at least to me.

Remember this from Psalm 118? It's verse 24 in the NRSV Bible: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Sometimes when I hear that or think of it, I have to admit to more than a little irony. Not quite cynicism. Something more helpful. More gentle. Less toxic.

Psalm 118 is what scholars call a psalm of thanksgiving. Its context is festivals and feasts, celebration and joy. One scholar calls it "a model for prayer," and somebody else says Psalm 118 is about trust. The Christian church uses this psalm most commonly on Palm Sunday and Easter, when the focus isn't on verse 24 but verse 17: "I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord." Martin Luther called verse 17 "a masterpiece," and concluded "all the saints have sung this verse and will continue to sing it to the end."

Next time it happens to you—the next time loose ends, bugs and goo get the best of you, or threaten to—the next time it happens to you, read Psalm 118. Pay special attention to the way it ends. You've heard that before, too.

God is good. See you in church. Bring someone with you!

9:55 a.m. Every Sunday. All Summer.

From Paul Flyger, Director of Music Ministry

The summer Music Ministry at First Congregational Church is coming together nicely. At the last Worship Planning Team meeting we decided how to arrange for the summer Special Music. The schedule is 95% complete and June is planned as follows:

June 4 - Communion & Graduation Sunday

The Chancel Choir will present Dan Forrest's arrangement of *This Is My Father's World* for their last choir anthem this season. This will be a great culmination to another year of singing! I extend a big "thank you" to each choir member for their continued dedication and commitment to the Chancel Choir.

June 11 - Trinity & Blended Worship Sunday

Our Worship Leader, Jessica Link, will be with us again and will also sing for Special Music. She will present Stephen Adam's well-known *The Holy City*.

June 18 - Father's Day

Special music will be presented by Ian Paul on the trumpet. He and I are planning to collaborate together for this worship service.

At 4:00 p.m. there will be a *Flyger and Friends Farewell Fundraiser Concert* in our sanctuary. I have been choosing repertoire with my local musician friends for my last concert here in the sanctuary. Please invite your friends for a great afternoon of concert favorites! Appearing with me on this concert will be sopranos Kirsten Schaffert, Carrie VanDenburgh, and Janene Bock Bergen. Instrumentalists will be Matt Pagel, piccolo trumpet, Kathy Zhang, violin, Mike Perkins, saxophone, John Thomas, French horn, and Kirsten Schaffert, trombone. The Alleluia Ringers from FCC will play a gorgeous piece on handbells. Pianist and organist Kory Heitzig, from First Congregational UCC Church in Kalamazoo will join me on two pieces using both piano and organ. The featured jazz ensemble, *Jazzmin II* with Steve Reed will be performing original works by Jim Cooper (Allegan) who will join Steven Reed, flugel horn and Chris Keech, saxophone, playing both piano and vibes. I will close this concert with the famous organ solo, *Carillon de Westminster* by Louis Vierne. A free

will offering will be collected at this concert to help underwrite the Lake Effect Jazz Big Band ensemble who are scheduled for their third *Jazz for Good Cheer* concert on the front steps of the church on Sunday, August 6. This is a benefit concert in partnership with Operation Good Cheer, a non-profit organization that helps provide Christmas gifts for foster kids in Berrien County.

June 25 - The 60th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ Church

Mike Perkins will help celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UCC church. He and I will present some of my favorite hymn arrangements that we have done over the past few years.



Looking in July and August

Going forward in July and August we are so grateful to Holden Alee, who has agreed to be the Interim Summer Organist. He has been very helpful in planning the details for the summer services. Liturgists have been scheduled though September 10 and I'm very grateful to Paula Thompson, who has offered to continue to schedule Worship Liturgists going forward. I'm also very happy for three additional guest organists who will each play a worship service and plan the special music during the month of July when Holden isn't able to be here.

I am very relieved to know that the Music Ministry here at First Congregational Church will be in excellent hands as I finish my music career in Southwest Michigan. I will miss each and every one of you very much as I seek a new chapter in my life journey in Portland, Oregon.

Health News from Parish Nurse Jan

June is National Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Everyone is at risk to develop Alzheimer's. The only prerequisite for Alzheimer's is that you have a brain. Did you know?

- Alzheimer's is fatal. It kills more people annually than breast and prostate cancer combined.
- Alzheimer's is not normal aging. It's a progressive brain disease without any cure.
- Alzheimer's is more than memory loss. It appears through a variety of signs and symptoms.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common of the many types of dementia. In 2015, 5.3 million people were diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States.

Alzheimer's can't be stopped or prevented. The cost to care for over 5 million people with Alzheimer's in 2015 was \$226 billion – half that cost was paid by Medicare.

In 2017, 1 in 3 seniors will die with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women. Alzheimer's is the only cause of death in the top 10 killers that can't be prevented, cured or slowed. Early detection of Alzheimer's matters.

7 Facts about Alzheimer's:

- Alzheimer's is detected at the end-stage of the disease.
- Memory loss is not part of the normal aging process.
- Current Alzheimer's drugs are not ineffective.
- Alzheimer's disease can be treated.
- There are many drugs in the Alzheimer's treatment pipeline.
- Taking good care of your heart will keep your brain healthy.
- Managing risk factors may delay or prevent cognitive problems later in life.

Nurse Jan's Band Schedule for June

Red Top Winery, 482 E. Snow Road, Baroda

June 11, 3-5:30 p.m.

Buchanan Commons Concert,

Downtown Buchanan, **June 29, 7-8:30 p.m.**



Starting Sunday, June 4

church will change to our summer time of 9:55 a.m.

Be sure and mark you're calendar. You don't want to be late!

Women's Book Study

The Spectator Bird by Wallace Stegner, is a national book award winner. This novel is a gentle book, a meditation on marriage and the nature of growing old. Joe Allston, a retired literary agent and curmudgeon, describes his life as "just killing time until time gets around to killing me." Through an old journal he revisits a trip he took to Denmark in his youth in search of answers to life's biggest questions - what defines us, how do we choose our paths? We will meet on Tuesday, June 29 at 9:30 a.m. in the Greeting Room. Books will be available to borrow.



Doing Faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. [As theologian] Paul Tillich said ... doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

-Frederick Buechner

Renovation Project Capital Campaign Update

Things are progressing very nicely with respect to the Capital Campaign and the proposed Renovation plans. Work will begin in Fellowship Hall the last week in May beginning with the removal of the asbestos floor tiles. New doors and windows, new lighting and electric switches, an all new sound system, and a beautiful new color scheme on the walls and floor will round out this summer's Fellowship Hall updating. Sanctuary updates will begin in September with Sunday services being held in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. Our goal is to have the Sanctuary updates wrapped up by the middle of November so that we can celebrate the Christmas season in the main Sanctuary.

The Capital Campaign Team (CCT) is delighted to be receiving new pledges every week in positive support of the fundraising effort. We have now surpassed the percentage of church member pledges from previous Capital Campaigns and are nearing our goal of 50% participation. We have also reached our preliminary goal of \$225,000 in pledges ensuring that funding will be available for the majority of the work to be paid for in 2017. This could not have happened so quickly without the positive giving nature of church members and the generous support of Women's Fellowship, the Trustees, and the Endowment Fund.

The Capital Campaign Team is now focused on an important secondary goal which is to pay back the Endowment Fund. As most everyone knows an Endowment Fund is like a rainy day fund for the future. It's there as a resource in case of unforeseen needs such as lighting strikes, storm damage, etc. It's also a source of income as an investment tool. The Endowment committee is in full support of the Renovation Project and has allocated \$100,000 to get our Campaign off the ground. However, the CCT is committed to paying a major portion of that gift back to the Endowment with further pledges of support.

If you haven't had the opportunity to turn in your pledge, please consider doing so at your earliest convenience. A one-time donation can be made or pledges can be spread out over three years. And as always, if you have any concerns or questions don't hesitate to ask any member of this hardworking team. Their names are listed at the bottom of this article as a reminder.

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Chapel Renovation Project FCC Focus Group #7 Questions and Answers

Q. What will the chairs be like for the choir?

A. A sample chair is available for you to see and sit in today. They are very comfortable with a lumbar support. There are racks for music, hymnals, and a cup holder for communion. The same chair will also be used for the replacement of the two front pews.

Q. Since we are due to have 3 major staff changes (pastor, music/organist, and CE director) wouldn't it be a better idea to wait until those positions are filled?

A. Actually, when Dr. Bob became our pastor there was a Capital Campaign going on at that time. He felt that if the church was able to proceed with plans without a permanent pastor that was a sign of a healthy church. He was also the one who began thinking about renovations two years ago with Paul. Others shared, including Dr. Guerrero, that having renovations done or in progress would entice a person to become interested in First Congregational UCC.

Q. Isn't there molding that will need to be matched?

A. Yes, with the lift and areas where the choir pews will be removed.

Q. How can I make a donation to the project?

A. You could make a one-time donation, pledge over 3 years, or whatever will work for you. Pledge cards are available in all the pews and the church office.

Comments:

As a new member, I like that the church is progressing.

We have a new website through *Share Faith* that will be able to keep our church information current. Sermons can be added through streaming once the sound system is updated.

The T-Loop for those with hearing aids will continue with the new system in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

The feeling seemed to be very positive with a number in attendance that had been away for the winter during the other 6 Focus Group presentations.

The Capital Campaign Team continues to hope that we reach approximately 50% support for the renovations.

If we raise more money than needed, we will be able to put the additional money back into the Endowment Fund for future needs of the church.

Capital Campaign Team and Renovation Committee Members

Kristin Armstrong - ad hoc

Roger Bertsch - ad hoc

Richard Carlson

Beth Christy

Ed Eisele

Paul Flyger

Rick Freridge

Carol Geldhof

Bill Marohn - ad hoc

Patty Nordberg

Steven Reed - Chair Capital Campaign Team

Susan Dietrich-Reed - ad hoc

Allan Westmaas

Russ Zick - Chair Renovation Committee

Women's Summer Bible Study

June 8, we'll meet at Patty Nordberg's home (2146 South Hanley Road, St. Joseph, near Brown School Road & Lakeshore Drive.) The study will be on "The Dash" a short DVD on the poem and a discussion of how your dash will be written. All women of the church are invited to attend. For more information, please call Patty at 429-7297.



Fatherly Guidance

Every man who desires to become a true father has to look continually to the Lord, that he might learn of him how to relate to his own children.

—Sunday Adelaja

June Birthday Wishes

01 - Sally Grumbine
06 - Ian Paul
10 - Will Armstrong
11 - Alison Achramowicz
11 - Todd Christy
17 - Anne Brockway
17 - Bobbie Harder
17 - Kelly Yeager
20 - Kay Welch
23 - Carol Drews
23 - AJ Terry
27 - Zachary Ort
27 - Joyce Vance
30 - Sarah Yircott

Publication Deadlines

Information for the **bulletin calendar page** needs to be in the front office **by Tuesday noon** before the Sunday you want it to appear.

Parchment articles need to be in the office by the **third Monday** of each **month**.

Adult Sunday School

Class will resume in the fall at 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Room. More information will be available in late August. This class is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Church Women United

Their next program will be held in November. More information about that program will be available in September.

FCC Library

When you are looking for a book, don't forget to notice new additions on the rack on the counter. You'll also find a section that has books relating to Michigan in general and local history. Summer will hopefully be a time to finish the project of organizing all the books. Interested in helping? Contact Patty at pnordberg@comcast or 429-7297.



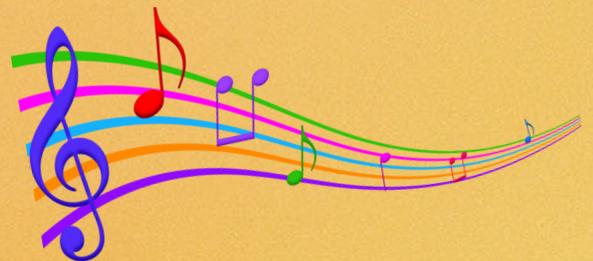
Come Out And Join Us

The FCC walking group is hitting the pavement again. The group meets at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday in the church parking lot. The walk is to the lake and back. For those interested in a different time of day, please contact Linda Becker at 588-3044 or Patty Nordberg at 429-7297.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, June 25

Join us immediately following worship for lunch on the back lawn, as we say thank you and a sad goodbye to our Director of Music and organist of 24 years, Paul Flyger. Call the church office with your reservations by Monday, June 19. If you can help set up tents, please let the office know. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the party!



News from Christian Education

Important Dates for CE

- June 4 - Worship Time Changes, Church Picnic, and Graduation Sunday
- June 4 - Camp Kid Connection and Youth Sunday School Starts
- June 10 - Car Wash (Mission Fundraiser)
- June 11 - Kids in Worship
- June 11 - Bake Sale (Mission Fundraiser)

Mission Trip News

Did you know there are three easy ways you can support our mission trip? One way is to bring us your returnable cans and bottles! Please place them by your vehicle and the youth will pick them up. The second opportunity is on June 10, the mission team is hosting a carwash in the church parking lot. We are looking for soft towels and volunteers to help out. The third opportunity is a bake sale on June 11. The team will be selling baked goods across from the Chapel, directly after the worship service. If you are able to donate your time, towels, or baked goods please contact Shannon Milnickel at s.milnickel@live.com.

Will We Have Summer Sunday School?

YES! We have some exciting things going on for our children and youth this summer. All children birth through 5th grade are invited to Camp Kid Connection in the preschool room. This will give our younger kids an opportunity to learn with our older kids! Students in 6th through 12th grade are meeting in the Youth Room during worship service for youth group style Sunday school class!

June's Teaching Themes

Kid Connection Camp

Through the story of Jesus as a boy, our kids will learn that they can tell others about God. Young Samuel will show them how they can listen to God. Young David will show them that they can be chosen to lead. And, finally, David will also show them that they can be brave. God used each and every one of these guys, at such a young age, to do amazing things. They were kids! But that did not stop them for doing what God wanted them to do. We want our kids to know that they can do what God wants them do too – and that totally rocks!

The lessons we want our kids to learn during this month include:

God Made Me.

Who Can do what God wants you to do? I Can do what God wants me to do!

June's memory verse:

"God made us to do good works." Ephesians 2:10, NCV

Youth Sunday School

During June, students will complete the series called IF/THEN.

How do you normally introduce yourself? Maybe you start with, "Hi. I'm (insert your name here)."

But what comes after that? Sure, you can talk about where you go to school, or what hobbies you're into, but that doesn't really introduce anyone to *you*, just facts *about* you. When Jesus talked about Himself, He would make statements like, "I am the Good Shepherd" and, "I am the bread of life." As strange as they sound, these statements give us a better picture of who Jesus is. Because if He is a shepherd, then we are His sheep. And if He is the bread of life, then we can be satisfied in Him. In this series, we'll discover that the way Jesus described Himself, gives us a clue into who we are as well.

The lessons we want students to learn each week during the *Limitless* series include:

If He is Who He says, then I will follow His lead.

If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, then you are in good hands.

If Jesus is the bread of life, then you can be satisfied.

See You In Sunday School!

WHAT OUR CHURCH IS ABOUT

Our Vision

As believers in Jesus Christ, we will be a church of vibrant Christians.

Our Mission

We welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ to:

Discover God

Equip one another for life

Reach inward and outward to serve

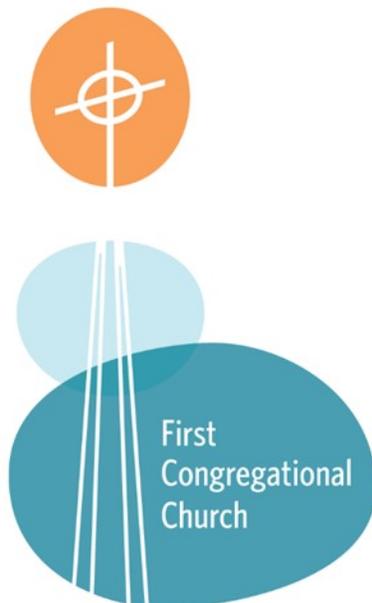
The Invitation to Discipleship from Jesus Christ

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

We grow as disciples through these 6 practices:

- Daily Prayer
- Bible Reading
- Weekly Worship
- Generous Giving
- Selfless Serving
- Spiritual Friendships



INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER

Dr. Charles Guerrero

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

September thru May

- 8:30 a.m. Handbell warmup (if scheduled)
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Discipleship
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:25 a.m. Worship
- 10:45 a.m. Christian Education classes

June, July, and August

- 9:55 a.m. Worship

Childcare available during worship.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

September thru April

- 5:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers
- 5:45 p.m. Church Family Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Kids Connection
- Middle High Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Education Class

THURSDAY NIGHT

- 5:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

OFFICE HOURS

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

Phone: (269) 983-5519

Website: fccstjoseph.org

Facebook: FCCStJoseph

Email: office@fccstjoseph.org

Address: First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
2001 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085