



# The Parchment

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

OCTOBER 2017

## *Potpourri from Dr. Guerreno*

Some Wednesday evening activities have resumed, with a full slate scheduled to begin on October 11. I'll be offering a class based on the book, ***Worshipful: Living Sunday Morning All Week*** by Dr. James C. Howell. The cost for the book is \$15. If you would like to purchase a book, please call the church office.

+ + + + +

We'll have another "Family Matters" gathering after church on Sunday, October 22. So far, agenda items include a six-month report from me, updates from the Senior Minister Search Committee and the Renovation Committee, introduction of new staff members, a few words from the Stewardship Committee and a brief presentation from our Endowment Committee. Lunch will be served before the meeting.

+ + + + +

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We'll have our regular Sunday morning service that morning. Evening worship will begin at 8:30, preceded by seasonal music at eight o' clock.

+ + + + +

Finally, a bit of insult humor from Mark Twain. It's from the second volume of his autobiography. Writing about a publisher who'd swindled him out of a substantial amount of money, Mark Twain says

He has been dead a quarter of a century no. My bitterness against him has faded way and disappeared. I feel only compassion for him, and if I could send him a fan I would.

+ + + + +

God is good. See you in church, and bring someone with you!

## Adult Sunday School

You are invited to join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Greeting Room. We are continuing our travels with Ray VanderLaan as he takes tours to the Holy Land. In this set of Faith Lessons, learn how confronting evil can be loudly proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need. We will be looking at the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred scriptures. Each week we will watch a DVD and discuss what we have seen. Come and share with us.

October 1 - City of the Great King Part 1, The Temple

October 8 - City of the Great King Part 2, Jerusalem

October 15 - The Lamb of God, Mount of Olives


October 22 - The Weight of the World, Capernaum/  
Gethsemane

October 29 - Roll Away the Stone, Garden Tomb

## Church Women United

Mark your calendars now...World Community Day will be celebrated at our church on Friday, November 3. The theme is "Kindling New Fires of Peace." Bible study will begin at 11:00 a.m., lunch will follow at noon (Ann Palenske will be providing soup and sandwiches), and the program will begin at 1:00 p.m. The chair of the event is Sinie Bass, representative for St. John and St. Bernard Catholic Churches. First Church of God will provide desserts.

All women are welcome to join us. Tickets (\$10) will be available for lunch with reservations due by October 30. Questions? Contact Patty Nordberg at 429-7297 or pnordberg@comcast.net.



Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,  
Ephesians 5:19

## United Way Day of Action For Seniors

On November 9, United Way volunteers will meet, gather supplies and help senior citizens prepare for winter by raking leaves and cleaning gutters. Many area seniors try to accomplish this work on their own, putting them at risk for falls and serious injury. Join us in giving them a helping hand when prepping for winter. It will be a day filled with hard work and many rewards.

If you are a senior citizen (60+) who is physically unable to rake leaves or clean gutters and cannot afford to hire this type of service you can apply for help.

To volunteer or apply for assistance, please contact Ruthann Miller at 269-470-8195 or go to the United Way website to sign up at <http://www.uwsm.org/dayofactionforseniors>, before October 19.

## Hate Junk Mail?

If you would like to stop receiving junk mail, just bring what you no longer want to receive and drop it into the box outside the church office. Ken Schneider has volunteered to remove your name from unwanted mail. If you would prefer to do it yourself, you'll find instructions on the side of the drop box.

## Stewardship Campaign 2017

October is our Stewardship Month with a focus on sharing stories about what we have accomplished during this past year and looking ahead to the impact we want to have on our various ministries during the coming year.

As we prepare for this year's Stewardship Sunday on October 29, we'll share updates each Sunday including our music ministry, Christian Education, our health care ministries, and our missions work. You'll hear more about how your generous giving has impacted individuals and families and enabled us to be powerful agents of God's love to our community (locally, nationally, and internationally).

If you have questions, please talk with any of our Stewardship Committee members: Kristin Armstrong, Dennis Thompson, Roger Bertsch, Steve Reed, Russ Zick, Tom Fowler, Allan Westmaas, or Susan Dietrich-Reed.

You will soon receive a pledge card in the mail. **Stewardship Sunday will be October 29**; this year we'll offer our pledge cards the following week on Sunday, November 5 (or you can mail yours into the church office any time).

Thank you for keeping your hearts open as we share information and ask you to consider, in the coming weeks, how you can be part of this year's exciting and important Stewardship drive.

*'17 Stewardship Committee*

## Family Matters Meeting

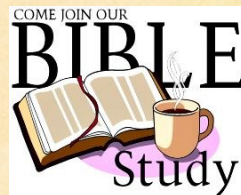
Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, October 22 for an all church gathering. Immediately following worship we'll enjoy a chili lunch (a not too spicy one & a vegetarian one with hot dogs for the kids) along with cornbread and brownies. The meeting will take place following lunch. A free will offering will be taken.

If you would like to help with the luncheon, please contact Ann Palenske at 944-7984.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 22nd.

## Birthday Wishes

01 - Dan Burkhard  
01 - Scott Collum  
01 - Karol Paul  
01 - Leah Terry  
02 - Bill Burrows  
05 - Mary Jane Waldenmaier  
06 - Dave Brockway  
06 - Ann Palenske  
08 - Nancy Fowler  
11 - Midge Carr  
14 - John Thomas  
15 - Abigail Brotzki  
15 - Autumn Zick  
16 - Naia Dibkey  
16 - Curt Plummer  
20 - Caryl Meister  
20 - Bill Schalk  
26 - Helen Sinn  
28 - Ed Eisele  
28 - Jane Maddock  
28 - Jane Marohn  
29 - Steve Reed  
30 - Susan Dietrich-Reed  
30 - Russ Zick  
31 - Jinny Bock  
31 - Hailey Rich



Women's Bible Study meets on Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room. The group is continuing their study, **20 Ways to Make Every Day**

**Better - Simple, Practical Changes with Real Results** by Joyce Meyer. Women's Fellowship Council helps to support WBS with the cost of materials. Bring your Bible and join in. Questions? Contact Patty Nordberg at 429-7297 or pnordberg@comcast.net

**October 5** Church Rummage - no class  
**October 12** Chapters 9, 10, 11  
**October 19** Section 3: Patterns to Break  
Chapters, 12, 13  
**October 26** Chapters, 14, 15

## ***News from Christian Education***

### ***Director Emily Luther***

#### **Notes from CE**

- Wednesday night classes started on September 20. We will have classes for every age, including adults starting October 11. Below is the schedule:

5:00 p.m. Jubilate Ringers

5:45 p.m. Church Family Dinner

6:30 p.m. Kid Connection & Middle High Youth Group

6:30 p.m. Dr. Guerreno's Class

**Wednesday night child care will be from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m.**

- Youth Book Club (9th grade and up) has began! It is the second Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at Barb Callendar's home. If you have any questions, please contact Emily at [emilyluther12@gmail.com](mailto:emilyluther12@gmail.com).

#### **Confirmation News**

The Christian Education Ministry has decided to not hold Confirmation this year. We want to be sure we provide the best possible confirmation for our young worshipers, and with the low attendance this year we felt it would not be the movement it needs to be to serve our young people. We plan on holding Confirmation next year when attendance is set to be much higher.

#### **October Teaching Themes**

**Kid Connect Jr. (4 years old to kindergarten, meets on Sunday mornings following the children's message and Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.)**

We know things are going to happen in our preschoolers' lives where they will need God's help—times when their lives will zig one way and then zag another. We want them to grow up believing that God loves them and can help them anywhere, with anything, no matter how hard it may be. He can even help them help others! This month, we'll learn about the life of David and how even when it zigged and zagged, God was there to help him. The lessons we want the preschoolers to learn during this month include:

**God is here to help.**

October's memory verse:

***We have the Lord our God to help us.***

2 Chronicles 32:8

#### **Kid Connection**

**(Grades 1-5, meets on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.)**

During the month of October we will be helping our kids and families learn that God created the entire world—the land and sea, planets and galaxies, animals and people. And when people create, those people do so because of the gift and talents that God gave them.

It's our job to take care of what God has loaned us for a time to use in order to bring Him glory. Taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. The lessons we want the students to learn each week include:

**Remember, everything belongs to God.**

**Use your time wisely**

**Use your things wisely**

**Use Your money wisely**

**Live like you know what really matters**

October's memory verse:

***Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.***

Luke 16:10a, NIRV

## Youth

(Grade 6-12, meets on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.)

During October students will complete the series called *Stuck*. In this series, we'll discover that God's heart is for us to live free from the things that keep us stuck. We'll see that God has the power to get us unstuck and move us forward in the story He's writing for our lives. The lessons we want students to learn each week during the *Stuck* series include:

You're not as stuck as you think you are.  
This isn't as forever as it feels.  
Ask God to change your mind in the moment.

October's memory verse:

*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid,  
but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

2 Timothy 1:7 NIV

## Men's Ministry

The group will meet on Saturday, October 14 and 28 at 8:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room for a warm breakfast. Following breakfast we will continue working on *The Secret Battle of Ideas About God* by Jeff Meyers. One area of discussion will be what is our purpose in life for those of us in our later stages of life? Your contribution is needed. Also, how do we help the younger generation which is bombarded through the social media with thousands of little stories, to learn to develop their own big stories? What is the difference between the hopes that Christians have and that of Islamists? Questions about the group? Contact Dr. Bock at 983-7576.

It's time to pack up items that you no longer use that are in good working condition (clean) and bring them to the church sale. Items may be dropped off on the following dates and times:



29th & 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday 1st after worship till 1:00 p.m.

Monday 2nd 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

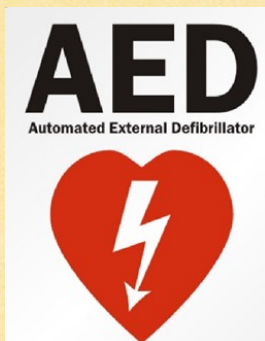
Tuesday 3rd 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Don't forget to sign-up to volunteer a day or two or even a few hours each day. If you can't work, we are looking for treats to feed our volunteers. You'll find sign-up sheets located outside the youth room on the lower level or call the church office for more information.

## Women's Book Group - Tuesday, October 31, 9:30 a.m. *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry

A recent article in *Christianity Today* includes this Wendell Berry book in its list of "Five Books to Read When Your Church is Searching for Its Next Pastor." Timely! *Jayber Crow* is orphaned at an early age and eventually enters the seminary to follow what he believes is his calling. While there, he is plagued by spiritual doubt and abandons his studies. He returns to his small hometown of Port William, Kentucky where he becomes the town barber - a ministry in its own way. In this role, he is a watchful observe of human goodness and frailty. Crow revels in the joy of living close to nature and mourns the vanishing agrarian lifestyle of rural Kentucky. *JayBer Crow* is a quiet, reflective novel about the power of faith and the strength of community.

## News From Parish Nurse Jan



First Congregational Church is now the proud owner of two (2) Automated External Defibrillators. An A.E.D. is a device that checks a person's heart and delivers an electric shock if it has stopped beating normally.

Our first device was purchased in 2009 and is housed on the first floor on the west wall in the Narthex. That device has been temporarily removed due to the renovations currently on going in the Sanctuary in order to spare it from continual construction dust exposure. It will be returned to that location once the renovations are completed.

The new A.E.D. device is located in the lower level near the choir room, outside of Fellowship Hall. Both devices are identical and operate in the same manner. Please become familiar with their locations as you may be called up to retrieve one of them during an in house medical emergency.

A special thanks to the Trustees for their expedient approval. We captured Jim installing the storage cabinet under the watchful eye of Nurse Jan!

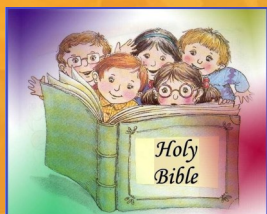


## Reach Out and Lend a Hand

Looking for a way to help others in Texas or Florida? Wondering what you can do from Michigan? Women's Fellowship is supporting Church World Services Hurricane Relief by filling Hygiene Bags and Cleaning Supply Buckets. If you would like to help, pick up a bag or bucket (or more than one!) to fill with supplies (list of supplies is included) and return it by October 15. The buckets are located by the youth room and when filled can be returned to that area. The items will be taken to Goshen, IN where they will be distributed as needed to the areas stricken by hurricanes. Women's Fellowship will pay for the postage to mail them. Make this a project for you, your family or a group. Thank you for reaching out and showing God's love to those in need.

On Sunday, September 10, four of our youngest faces received their first Bibles.

Wes DeJong, Matilda Lutz, Henry Parin, Averie Wier



As a congregation, we rejoice in this step in our children's journey with God. We pray God will guide each one, their families and us as they use their new Bible in their homes and in church. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word. May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

# 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 Guerreno

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

*September thru May*

8:30 a.m.	Handbell warmup (if scheduled)
9:30 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.	Family Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Kid 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:	<a href="http://fccstjoseph.org">fccstjoseph.org</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FCCStJoseph">FCCStJoseph</a>
Email:	<a href="mailto:office@fccstjoseph.org">office@fccstjoseph.org</a>