



PILGRIM POST

August Volume 21 Issue 8

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Muskegon
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FCC/UCC is a loving congregation with rich traditions, striving to be open-minded, and committed to God-centered lifelong learning, deep spirituality, social justice and community outreach.

The Foundation of our church

is built on volunteers.

Many thanks

to those who willingly agree

to serve on our governing board,

departments, and committees.

Without you,

we would not be able to

spread God's love.

LETTER FROM PASTOR TIM

Dear friends,

How wonderful it has been to gradually see more and more of you in person these last weeks. And we have talked more hopefully of late about choir coming back together, and a Homecoming Sunday in September with the resumption of our Christian Ed. Program and we have begun to imagine, not a return to old normal, but growth into a new normal. And yet, with the CDC guidelines just released, about the need for even vaccinated persons to wear masks in some indoor settings, it sometimes feels like one step forward and two steps back. May God grant us the wisdom, love and patience with each other to move safely through these trying times.

The latest information will always be available on our website, www.fccmuskegon.org, so don't hesitate to check there for our calendar and plans as they develop.

In the meantime, I want to share a word from our Member Care Department. In several settings, people have expressed concern about finding the right balance between including sufficient information in our Prayers of the People which will let us know for whom and what we are being asked to pray and protecting the privacy of those being prayed for.

This has become an even greater concern now that our services are being streamed online where they will live in perpetuity and are accessible to anyone. We have far less control over the scope of private information being shared than we have in the past.

For that reason, we are asking that information given in our public prayers be limited to very generic statements such as, "We have been asked to pray for healing (or for other joys and concerns – work or family, an anniversary, etc.)" The exceptions would be that we have a request from the person being prayed for to include more information OR if the prayer is meant to include information that is already public, such as condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and details about the time and place of a funeral, and so on.

May we continue to lift up our prayers, both of joy and concern, for our members and friends, but in ways that care about their welfare and their right to privacy.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Tim

Our Church Family

Prayers are appreciated for continued healing for these members and friends of our church:

Those who suffer in silence.

Those who are homebound.

Those who are ill.

Those who are recovering from surgery.

Those who are lonely.

Those who have moved.

Prayers of sympathy to family and friends of our recently departed:

Loyce Page passed away on June 20, 2021 at the age of 93. She and Billy D. Page were married on September 6, 1947. Loyce worked as a secretary in several different towns to help Bill get his PhD; as well as to pay for their 3 children's college education. Besides her great sense of humor, Loyce was known for knitting caps and mittens for the poor. Loyce and Bill became member of FCC in 2012 and immediately became loyal volunteers at the Saturday Breakfast.

Dennis Major passed away on July 13, 2021 at the age of 82. He and Marla Webster were married on August 6, 1960 after he graduated from Kent State University. He began his career in marketing and sales at several steel and aluminum companies. In 1991 he accepted a position in Muskegon at Lorin Industries. That was his sixth and last time he moved his family. He retired from Lorin in 2003. They quickly became members of our church. Here at First Congregational he enjoyed serving as the "Egg man" at Saturday Breakfasts. Prior to his stroke in 2013, Dennis was an avid golfer and member of White Lake Golf club. His sailboat "Windsor" was kept across the street at White Lake Yacht Club. She shared his love of golf and boating with his family. Our deepest sympathy and prayers to his wife Marla, son Joel and family, daughter Melissa and family, and daughter, Elisabeth and her daughter Gillian.

August Birthdays



01	Brennen Kartes	11	Laura Bednarczyk		Scott Peterson
	Chris Miller	12	Don Rahn	23	Tammy Wade
02	Barbara Boucher		Steve Kartes	24	Willie Jones
	Lexus Chambers		Vivian Johnson	25	Joshua Mack
03	Nicole Schmidt	15	Jan Entsminger		Richard McEwen
04	Julie Olson	16	Idris Muhammad	26	Mikki Borns
05	Bob Kieft	17	Ryan Portenga		Cindy Maguire
	Khamiya Reynolds		Austin Decker	27	Alissa Novoselick
06	Mary Schoonover		Scott McEwen		Cindy Dykema
07	Jim Korbecki	18	Mara Bullion	28	John Frein
08	Aleia Wade-Goudie	19	Sue Munroe	29	Cyndi Bates-Twining
	Robyn Goodman		Chris Sanden		Kendra Andrie
			Pat Johnson	31	Marianne Hathaway
10	Steve Doctor				Jack Crampton
	Jean Keene	20	Lisa Longpre		
	Norma McEwen	21	John Wahlberg		

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES



PRAYER CONNECTION

If you have a concern or joy that you would like prayers for please email our Prayer Connection at: FCCPrayerConnection@gmail.com, Your request will be forwarded to all that have requested to receive the prayer concerns. If you would like to receive the prayer concerns, please go through the above email and request to be added to the list. Please let us know if you do not want it published on our public website and Pilgrim Post.

MISSION AND SERVICES:

My, how fast this summer is passing. We have two Mobile Food Trucks left for this summer and Fall. Thank you to all who participated by volunteering at the **Feeding America Mobile Food Truck**.

Food Truck schedule:

August 28, NOTE: 1 p.m. · October 2, 10 a.m.

Twenty volunteers need to be committed for each date and will be coordinated by Donna Lachniet (DGL2846@aol.com, 231-798-7771, or 231-740-1140). For some dates, a partnering organization will supply about 10 helpers to supplement regular Saturday Breakfast volunteers.

Volunteer guidelines: Arrive at FCC one hour before the stated time, park across from the church's front entrance at 1201 Jefferson, and expect to stay through parking lot clean-up. Wear appropriate hat, mask, sturdy close-toed shoes, and weather related clothing. Bring your own water bottle and lawn chair if needed for waiting time.

During the Covid 19 Pandemic, food boxes are assembled by volunteers and placed in the drive through vehicles or handed to the pedestrian guests.

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches' Crib and its drivers supply the set-up tables, gloves, registrars, and handle the traffic logistics.

SAVE THE DATES

Feeding America Mobile Food Truck: August 28, 2021

Homecoming Sunday: September 12, 2021

Crop Walk: October 3, 2021

Governing Board Minutes July 19, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Jon Witmer with an opening prayer by Pastor Tim.

Agenda and Minutes were approved by consensus.

Election of new officers: Roy Portenga as President, Jackie Murphy as Clerk, and Greg Scott as Treasurer. No Vice President was elected at this time. A thank you to all retiring officers.

Old Business- Spending Plan Proposal, much discussion as to how it was presented to the board and congregation. Spending Plan was approved at the Congregational Meeting with hopes of a 7% increase in giving or welcoming new members. If a deficit occurs in 2021-22, adjustments of spending will be addressed.

The Stewardship campaign will begin shortly. Bruce Hood, Jon Witmer and others to be asked will be on the committee and campaign.

Personnel Policy Revisions- Roy Winegar moved to accept both the new and old policy workings and revisions. Jon Witmer seconded. Discussion followed concerning most aspects of the policy, referring to the By-Laws for correct procedures and policies when needed. Friendly amendment about unfair treatment language to be added. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Able to break even with an addition of \$35,000 from Endowment, which did offer \$40,000.

Member Care – Roy Portenga moved to accept Pat Johnson as a member of the department. Seconded by Jon Witmer, motion passed. Her name was inadvertently left out at the congregational meeting.

Departments with agreed upon Chairperson:

Building and Grounds-Tom Williams (vice-chair Steve Doctor).

Christian Education- Gillian Major

Congregational Life Department – Marty Lalick

Music and Worship – Donna Hood

New Business: Finance Committee will be Pastor Tim, Jane Scott, Greg Scott, Deb Collette and Roy Winegar. Motion to accept the above 5 for the finance committee by Shirley Albers, seconded by Donna Hood. Motion passed.

Personnel Committee: Pastor Tim, Shirley Albers, and Roy Portenga. Looking for two more people to complete this committee.

Motion to adjourn made by Barb Wenk and seconded by Jon Witmer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for June 2021

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	Current YTD Budget	Current YTD Difference	Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$24,273	\$ 295,316	\$ 311,242	\$ - 15,926	\$ 311,242
Non-pledged Offerings	3,132	26,789	33,500	- 6,711	33,500
Misc. Income	607	48,816	37,765	11,051	37,765
Operating Income Endow.	35,613	35,613	40,000	- 4,387	40,000
Total Op. Income	\$ 63,626	\$ 406,534	\$ 422,507	\$ - 15,973	\$ 422,507
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 44,218	\$ 406,534	\$ 422,507	\$ - 15,973	\$ 422,507
NET TOTAL:	\$ 19,408	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Income exceeded expenses for the month of June, allowing us to finish our fiscal year at break-even. We did not need to use the entire \$40,000 pledged from Endowments for operations this fiscal year, retaining \$4,387 in our invested funds category. Our year-to-date income was lower than expected, and expenses were also lower than budgeted in every category and department.

(As of 7/12/2021, Greg Scott, Treasurer - ejm)

Lectionary August, 2021

<p>SUN Aug 01 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35</p>	<p>THU Aug 05 Numbers 20:1-13 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9 Matthew 16:13-23</p>
<p>MON Aug 02 Numbers 11:4b-15 Psalm 81:1, 11-16 Matthew 14:13-21</p>	<p>FRI Aug 06 Deuteronomy 4:32-40 Psalm 77:11-15, 20 Matthew 16:24-28</p>
<p>TUE Aug 03 Numbers 12:1-13 Psalm 51:1-4, 10-11 Matthew 14:22-36</p>	<p>SAT Aug 07 Deuteronomy 6:4-13 Psalm 18:1-3, 46, 50 Matthew 17:14-20</p>
<p>WED Aug 04 Numbers 13:1-2, 25-33; 14:1, 26-29, 34-35 Psalm 106:4, 6-7, 13-14, 21-23 Matthew 15:21-28</p>	<p>SUN Aug 08 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51</p>

- MON Aug 09** Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20
Matthew 17:22-27
- TUE Aug 10** Deuteronomy 31:1-8
Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 7-9, 12
Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- WED Aug 11** Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 66:103, 5, 8, 16-17
Matthew 18:15-20
- THU Aug 12** Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17
Psalm 114:1-6
Matthew 18:21-19:1
- FRI Aug 13** Joshua 24:1-13
Psalm 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24
Matthew 19:3-12
- SAT Aug 14** Joshua 24:14-29
Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11
Matthew 19:13-15
- SUN Aug 15** **TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58
- MON Aug 16** Judges 2:11-19
Psalm 106:4, 34-347, 39-40, 43-44
Matthew 19:16-22
- TUE Aug 17** Judges 6:11-24a
Psalm 85:8, 10-13
Matthew 19:23-30
- WED Aug 18** Judges 9:6-15
Psalm 21:1-6
Matthew 20:1-16
- THU Aug 19** Judges 11:29-39a
Psalm 40:4, 6-9
Matthew 22:1-14
- FRI Aug 20** Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
Psalm 146:5-10
Matthew 22:34-40
- SAT Aug 21** Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17
Psalm 128:1-5
Matthew 23:1-12
- SUN Aug 22** **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
1 Kings 8:1-6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69
- MON Aug 23** 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5, 8-10
Psalm 149:1-6, 9
Matthew 23:13-22
- TUE Aug 24** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Psalm 139:1-6
Matthew 23:23-26
- WED Aug 25** 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Psalm 139:7-12
Matthew 23:27-32
- THU Aug 26** 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
Psalm 90:3-5, 12-14, 17
Matthew 24:42-51
- FRI Aug 27** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12
Matthew 25:1-13
- SAT Aug 28** 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
Psalm 98:1, 7-9
Matthew 25:14-30
- SUN Aug 29** **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
- MON Aug 30** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 11-13
Luke 4:16-30
- TUE Aug 31** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
Luke 4:31-37