



PILGRIM POST

June 2020 Volume 20 Issue 6

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49441 Email: fcc@fccmuskegon.org

Phone: 231-726-3254 Website: fccmuskegon.org

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.

GOD IS STILL WITH US!

We worship a bit differently,
we communicate via the phone and emails, our worship service is
streamed through Facebook and YouTube, and the Pilgrim Post is even a bit different,
but we are still a church family and our love for God and others remain the same.

Have you had a chance to join us in worship through the internet?

Please join us through the link on the front page of our website:

fccmuskegon.org

If you would like to us to email you a link please let us know by contacting

Ann Taylor at annt@fccmuskegon.org or Dr. Match at

michaelm@fccmuskegon.org

We are continuing to bring you announcements and Tim has a daily meditation
through our Website : fccmuskegon.org.

If you know of some one who has moved or is not receiving our information, please help
us by contacting Ann Taylor

Email: annt@fccmuskegon.org or call her home phone.

We continue with our Food Pantry by appointment- through auspice of Love INC
Our heartfelt thank you to our pantry volunteers.



Thoughts From Rev. Tim

Dear Friends,

I am asked more and more often these days when things will get back to normal. In fact, I find myself wondering the same thing sometimes. But if by normal we mean back to the way things were, I suspect the answer is never.

That may be a shocking thing to contemplate. But think how down through history the business of the church has been largely the disruption of normal.

We are just a few days away from Pentecost Sunday, a time when we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, ten days after the Ascension. It is often spoken about as the “birthday” of the Christian church. Pandemonium and chaos from most people’s point of view.

In just ten days, on June 9, we will celebrate the 161st anniversary of the official organization of this congregation by ten women and two men. From looking at the records it would seem that little group had two primary concerns: how to offset the proliferation of bars and brothels as Muskegon developed from frontier outpost to a lumbering boomtown; and how to aid in the Abolition of slavery. Over the years, the social activists of this congregation were responsible for the founding of Hackley Hospital, and were a part of the precursor organizations of the Muskegon Rescue Mission and the United Way. By the time of FCC’s centennial, we were becoming known as the Country Club Church, with a growing number of corporate CEO’s among our membership. And yet that spirit of community benefit remained strong. It is hard to imagine Muskegon County Cooperating Churches, or the Community Foundation or Love INC without the participation of FCC members. And it was that same group of people who were instrumental in the building of Jefferson Towers, one of the first rent subsidized senior housing projects. We’ve done emergency pantries for decades, and we were among the first to bring Mobile Food Pantries to the community. By the time I came here as Senior Minister, we were well on our way to becoming known in the Community as the Breakfast Church. And now that great program is on hold until who knows when. At one time we had a thriving Women’s Fellowship – as in many churches around the country much of the work of the church was done by Ladies Aid Societies and Guilds and Circles. And now that is a thing of the past.

The one constant, it seems, is change. Who would have imagined, even five or ten years ago, that we could do worship services online and meetings through Zoom? Sometimes change is progress, sometimes not. And sometimes it seems it is just change. But those winds of change are becoming a howling hurricane, right now, and yes, we need to do a bit of hunkering down, but we also need to begin to plan for what the future will look like.

One of the best bits of advice I have gotten on that score is, “Start with WHY!” Simon Sinek is the proponent from whom I learned that gem. I’ve talked about it before, and I recommend looking him up on-line, if the concept is new to you. Over the next days and weeks, I intend on devoting my online thoughts to identifying our Why as an organization/institution/community and using that as a framework for organizing our vision of who we are and what we are and how we are to live that out in days to come.

I would treasure a conversation with you about what that might look like.

Grace and peace to you all.

Rev. Tim



In Our Church Family

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

Elisabeth heard from Ellen Berends that her father Bob Van Geest (in a VA facility in GR for the last several months) has tested positive for COVID-19. Prayers for him and his family.

Judie Pratt, the founder and driving force behind the Lemonade Stand across the street from the church passed away on Monday, May 11, 2020 after a lengthy battle with cancer. A memorial service will be scheduled for later in the summer. Prayers for her family, please, but also for the Lemonade Stand and the members there as they chart their course in days and months to come.

From Deborah Groeneveld: Please keep my husband, Robert, in your prayers. He had bladder cancer surgery May 18, 2020.

Jerry Engle is very ill and in need of your prayers.

John Shoberg is home and continuing dialysis three times a week.

John Wahlberg had surgery and it had gone well. He doesn't know what timeline to expect for rehab, but at least to start he will be at Mary Free Bed. (May 6, 2020)

Deb Collett's brother as he battles serious health issue.

From Fred & Joan Sanderlin: Sherri is doing much better now. Even getting out for rides with Mick who also is doing much better.

From Rev Tim: Jill Brott called Sue to report that Rick's surgery had gone well, he was speaking on the phone to her from recovery and would be coming home this afternoon. (5/7/2020)

Prayers of gratitude to our healthcare workers and all front-line essential workers.

Connie Cottrell is home from the hospital, but tests continue over the next month.

Trina Jankowski's mother is back in her room doing better.

Prayers for the people of Midland County.

Prayers Of Sympathy:

To Sharon Miller and family of the passing of Kimm Lee Miller, Sr. on April 2, 2020 at the age of 79. Kimm was born in Grand Rapids, MI on April 29, 1940 to Harold and Janet Miller. Kimm served in the U.S. Navy in Corpus Christi, TX. On August 31, 1963 he married Sharon Quirk. He worked at the SD Warren Paper Mill for over 35 years. Kimm was a longtime member of FCC and served on many departments a Boy Scout leader, instructor for CPR through the Red Cross, and a Sunday School teacher. We would also see his bright smile behind the Welcome Center on many Sundays. Kimm had been a volunteer fireman for Dalton Township, enjoyed organic gardening (was a master gardener), woodworking and reading. Kimm leaves behind his wife Sharon of 57 years, daughter Linda (Tony) Razzini; son Chip (Sarah) Miller II, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother Randy (Betty) Miller and sister Karen (Don) Fowler. Arrangements by Clock Funeral Home.

To the family and friends of Don Mathews. Don passed away at the age of 96 on April 10, 2020. Don served in the U.S. Army in WWII. He met and married Grace Ota while attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Don and Grace and their three children came to Muskegon after serving with the National Christian Council of Kenya. Don served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church for 17 years. In his retirement he served at FCC as Interim Minister. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church at a later date.

To the family of Norma and Scott McEwen and family on the passing of Norma's mother, Evilia M. "Billie" Stone age 83 on April 25, 2020. Billie worked at Muskegon Paper Box, Michigan Spring and American Coil Spring until her retirement. A family memorial service has been held.

June Birthdays

- 1 Barb Kartes, Julie McIntosh, Neil Spink, Judy Williams, Gabriel Wade
- 2 Jackie Murphy, June Schrieber
- 3 Mike Collett, Mary Lou Eyke
- 4 Eddie Jankowski
- 5 Michael Match, Shirley Albers, Fred Nicles
- 6 LeDrea Lewis, Joe-Ryan Singerling
- 8 Dave Wikman
- 9 Larry Doctor, Abbie Rockwood
- 11 Kim Lemieux
- 12 Henry Gasahl IV, Jody Northius, Cyndy Novoselick
- 13 Kaylin Foster
- 14 Jay McMahan
- 15 Bob Landman
- 17 Zach Rummery
- 18 David Abdelkader, Carol Beatty
- 20 Dave Scouten, Daphne Young
- 21 Cat Neal
- 22 Peggy Scouten
- 23 Alex Forrest
- 25 Lauren Abdelkader, Bobby Lowe
- 26 Terry Wade
- 27 Caroline Schaub, Nita Wikman, Dale Wilkinson
- 28 Lorie Hawkins
- 30 Robyn Doctor, Marty Lalick



Updates/News

Time marches forward. Our Nominating Committee is hard at work behind the scenes.

We have many openings on our Governing Board and departments. Please contact Diane Goodman or Ann Taylor if you are interested.

- Governing Board needs 3 Members At Large. They meet the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- Worship and Music meet the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- Missions meet the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m.
- Congregational Life meet the last Sunday of each month following church service.
- Nominating (meet from March to mid May after church for about 4-6 times)
- Building and Grounds meet the third Monday of each month at noon.
- Christian Education meet as needed
- Member Care meet the second Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.
- Endowments- please contact Roy Winegar.

Saturday Breakfast Update May 14, 2020

March 7, 2020, is the date when Saturday Breakfast was last served at First Congregational Church after not missing one Saturday since February of 2003.

Early discussions about alternative, safe ways to share this meal with the community took place with AgeWell Services, the Public Health Department, church leadership, and several of our concerned volunteers. Sadly we decided to put everything on hold for the duration of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

When might Saturday Breakfast resume?

- Perhaps when Muskegon's schools re-open and
 - When the Public Health Department allows congregate meal sites to serve food for on-site consumption and provides safety directives and
- When adequate numbers of volunteers have confirmed their readiness to return

As Volunteer Coordinator, Donna Lachniet would like to hear from you with your hopes, concerns, or suggestions about re-starting the Saturday Breakfast. Phone 231-798-7771 or email: DGL2846@aol.com. Meanwhile, thanks to you for the countless hours of service to our neighbors in need.

Father's Day Pictures

Please help us celebrate our dad. Send us a picture via email to: michaelm@fccmuskegon.org

What would be really fun, is to send us a picture of your dad with you! Please email by noon, Wednesday, June 17.



PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR April 2020

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	Current YTD Budget	Current YTD Difference	Current Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$ 18,785	\$ 261,271	\$ 258,203	\$ 3,068	\$ 301,216
Non-pledged Offerings	2,230	37,458	35,182	2,276	41,500
Misc. Income	807	54,260	46,604	7,656	49,911
Operating Inc. from Endow.	0	5,000	35,000	- 30,000	40,000
Total Op. Income	\$ 21,822	\$ 357,988	\$ 374,988	\$ - 17,000	\$ 432,627
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 31,961	\$ 364,160	\$ 370,325	\$ - 6,165	\$ 432,627
NET TOTAL:	\$ - 10,139	\$ - 6,171	\$ 4,664	\$ - 10,835	\$ 0

In the month of April 2020, we continued to follow health and safety guidelines to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and connected for worship using newer online technologies. Expenses exceeded income for the month of April. The year-to-date net amount is negative as well. Adequate cash flow remains on hand; therefore, we have not used as much of the \$40,000 pledged from Endowment earnings as was expected by this point in our fiscal year. It is very likely that we will need to use some of these funds in the next few months. We have set those funds aside so that they are readily accessible without divesting any invested funds.

(As of 5/12/2020, Greg Scott, Treasurer - ejm)

The Ricky Brott News:

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and wonderful cards, while I was recovering from my sinus surgery.

I also want to thank all that volunteer around the church, not just the Wednesday crew but also those that keep the pantry going.

And a very big shout out to Rev. Tim, Elisabeth, Michael, John, Phil, Ann, Holly, all the readers and anyone else that helps with our great services and a very special thanks to all our members that are sending in their pledges so we can maintain our bills and commitments.

Thanks.

Don't Lose Heart!

Rick

Lectionary June, 2020

MON Jun 01	II Peter 1, 2-7 Psalm 91:1-2, 14-16 Mark 12:1-12	WED Jun 10	I Kings 18:20-39 Psalm 16:1-2, 4-5, 8, 11 Matthew 5:17-19
Tue Jun 02	II Peter 3:12-15, 17-18 Psalm 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16 Mark 12:13-17	THU Jun 11	I Kings 18:41-46 Psalm 65:1, 9-12 Matthew 5:20-26
WED Jun 03	II Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12 Psalm 123:1-2 Mark 12:18-27	FRI Jun 12	I Kings 19:9, 11-16 Psalm 27:7-9, 13-14 Matthew 5:27-32
THU Jun 04	II Timothy 2:8-15 Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 Mark 12:28-34	SAT Jun 13	I Kings 19:19-21 Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-10 Matthew 5:33-37
FRI Jun 05	II Timothy 3:10-17 Psalm 119:157, 160-161, 165-166, 168 Mark 12:35-37	SUN Jun 14	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Genesis 18:1-15 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8
SAT Jun 06	II Timothy 4:1-8 Psalm 71:8-9, 14-17, 22 Mark 12:38-44	MON Jun 15	I Kings 21:1-16 Psalm 5:1-2, 4-6 Matthew 5:38-42
SUN Jun 07	TRINITY SUNDAY Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 II Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	TUE Jun 16	I Kings 21:17-29 Psalm 51:1-4, 9, 14 Matthew 5:43-48
MON Jun 08	I Kings 17:1-6 Psalm 121:1-8 Matthew 5:1-12	WED Jun 17	II Kings 2:1, 6-14 Psalm 31:19-20, 23 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
TUE Jun 09	I Kings 17:7-16 Psalm 4:1-4, 6-7 Matthew 5:13-16	THU Jun 18	Sirach 48:1-14 (<i>Apocrypha</i>) Psalm 97:1-7, 12 Matthew 6:7-15
		FRI Jun 19	II Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20 Psalm 132:11-14, 17-18 Matthew 6:19-23

SAT Jun 20	II Chronicles 24:17-25 Psalm 89:3-4, 28-33 Matthew 6:24-34	FRI Jun 26	II Kings 25:1-12 Psalm 137:1-6 Matthew 8:1-4
SUN Jun 21	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10; 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39	SAT Jun 27	Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 Psalm 74:1-7, 20-21 Matthew 8:5-17
MON Jun 22	II Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18 Psalm 60:1-3, 5, 10-11 Matthew 7:1-5	SUN Jun 28	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42
TUE Jun 23	II Kings 19:9-1, 14-21, 31-36 Psalm 48:1-3, 8-10 Matthew 7:6, 12-14	MON Jun 29	Amos 2:6-10, 13-16 Psalm 50:16-23 Matthew 8:18-20
WED Jun 24	II Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3 Psalm 119:33-37, 40 Matthew 7:15-20	TUE Jun 30	Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12 Psalm 5:3-7 Matthew 8:23-27
THU Jun 25	II Kings 24:8-17 Psalm 79:1-5, 8-9 Matthew 7:21-29		

PILGRIM POST:

Your articles, story ideas, comments, and suggestions for the PILGRIM POST are most welcome! ***Our deadline for the July issue is Wednesday, June, 17 2020.*** Please submit article ideas in writing, including your name and a telephone number where we can reach you if we have questions. You can send articles as email attachments to: ***fcc@fccmuskegon.org*** or you may deliver a hard copy to the church office. All articles are edited for clarity, length and consistency of style.

Please let the church office know if you would like the post mailed to you by email or U.S. mail.