



# PILGRIM POST

October 2020 Volume 20 Issue 10

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49441 Email: [fcc@fccmuskegon.org](mailto:fcc@fccmuskegon.org)

Phone: 231-726-3254 Website: [fccmuskegon.org](http://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.*

## *A Poets Pandemic Thoughts*

*A poet is often a loner*

*Living inside their own brain*

*Thinking outside the "round box"*

*Is surely a singular gain.*

*A past poet was often revered*

*Raised higher than those of today.*

*They wrote of historical epics*

*Not so much in rights gone astray\**

*The poet's a dreamer of "what if?"*

*Those things that might be or might not.*

*Mine has been blocked by pandemic*

*With horrific deep pains I had got.*

*My poet was forced to go sleeping*

*With Covid-19 as my jail.*

*I'm just coming out of the illness*

*A battle I just could not fail.*

*So today my poet's awakened.*

*I'm up to get fully dressed.*

*And thank that circle of pray-ers*

*Whose hopes for me I'd hardly guessed!*

*Brenda Gasahl*

## UPDATE FROM REV. TIM

### ***A Report from the Senior Minister to the Governing Board Concerning Re-Opening In-Person Worship***

At the heart of our dilemma is the fact that we are living in the tension between our love and desire for worship and fellowship and the law of loving one's neighbor which begins with doing no harm to the vulnerable among us. With that in mind let us consider:

- 1.) The need to maintain safe physical distance (minimum of six feet apart and the appropriate wearing of face coverings.
- 2.) Keeping childcare facilities closed. Children would need to remain with parents.
- 3.) Encouraging those at risk due to age or underlying health conditions to stay home.
- 4.) Requiring those who have been feeling sick or feverish in the last 72 hours, or have been in contact with anyone who has been sick in the last 14 days to remain home.
- 5.) No bulletins or worship aids to be handed out
- 6.) No congregational singing (aside from humming into your mask!)
- 7.) No coffee hour or other mingling before and after
- 8.) Proper cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms, seating, and other high touch surfaces before and after each service
- 9.) Refrain from passing collection plates.

Many guidelines also suggest not hosting indoor gatherings until cases locally have declined for 14 consecutive days .If we can meet these conditions, we could mark out up to 35 "places" in the main sanctuary and 17 in the balcony. Those places could accommodate more than 1 person if they are from the same household. We would need to plan entrance and egress paths that would not bring any of the participants within 6 feet of each other.

Choral music will not be possible for the foreseeable future. Small ensembles which can be appropriately distanced would be the best we can do.

It is our intention to continue to record and broadcast services even after we open for in-person participation. Our staff is committed, and has plans in place, to do that at the highest level of quality possible.

## CROP WALK 2020

Due to the pandemic, the CROP "walk" will be virtual. Individuals can walk alone, form groups, or simply collect pledges. The "walk" will take place on Sunday, October 4, 2020. There is still time to make our your pledge. PLEASE, MAKE YOUR PLEDGE OUT TO: to CWS/Crop and mail it to the church (do NOT make it out to FCC). OR go to the website [www.muskegoncrophungerwalkand](http://www.muskegoncrophungerwalkand) locate the registration for FCCMuskegon. Make your donation there, or set up your own site there. Naturally our crosstown rival has already gotten underway, so let's get going!!!

*Submitted by Barb Wenk*

## In Our Church Family

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

Mike Akhurst has been hospitalized due to health issues. Please pray for answers.

Lynda Malmquist is experiencing health issues. Please pray for her and her family.

Jerry Lahnala is home! Please pray for his continued recovery. Thank you for cards and calls.

Brenda and Jim Gasahl have recovered from Covid 19. Thank you for the cards and calls.

### **Prayers of Sympathy:**

To Jim Bidle and family on the unexpected passing of Joan (Jo) Bidle on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Dr. James Bidle and Joan were married on July 29, 1989 and moved to Muskegon, Mi. Jo was a graduate of Cornell College in Iowa and worked as a school teacher and with ReMax Realty. She was a staff member at the First Congregational Church in Crystal Lake, IL where she raised her four children with her first husband. Jo was a very faithful member at FCC Muskegon. She had a warm smile and engaging personality and will leave a legacy of endless thoughtfulness. She was 90 years old. A memorial service celebrating Jo's life will be held at a later date when Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

## October Birthdays

Oct 01	Ryan Wiles Laine Obzut	Oct 12	John Cress Tom Kitchen	Oct 20	Bob Fritsche Tracy Lucas
Oct 03	Sally Jones Leigh Lewis Cathy Sander	Oct 13	Mike Akhurst Maureen Campbell Langston Jackson	Oct 21	Shirley Buikema
Oct 05	Britta Portenga		Ron Nelson	Oct 22	Luke Forrest Brewster Willcox
Oct 06	Mike Frasier Barbara Koschmann Sarah Vander Haar	Oct 15	Joyce Hodges	Oct 23	Nancy Bott Laurie Gasahl
Oct 09	Karen Fowler Daniel Stewart	Oct 16	Dennis Major Loyce Page	Oct 25	Jim Van Buren
Oct 10	Helen Lind Howard Sanden		Joshua Rummery	Oct 27	Robert Vanderlaan
		Oct 17	Joan Sanderlin	Oct 29	Sally Leinicke Frank Sundquist, Jr.
		Oct 19	Carol Minnaar Tom Munroe	Oct 30	Curtis Taylor

## Will You Help Celebrate God's Love?

We are looking for

Scripture readers/Prayers of the People.

You may do just a reading or both. We have a link  
if you would like to record it at home, or

Wednesday's at 12:45 pm, Michael will record you at the church.

Please contact Ann if you can help us out.

## SEPTEMBER 2020 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm via Zoom Virtual and a few people who had RSVP'd at the church. An opening prayer was given by Rev. Tim Vander Haar.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Fred Nicles and seconded by Shirley Albers. Motion was passed.

### **President's Report**

Jon Witmer apologized for last month's confusion and subsequent lack of meeting.

### **Old Business**

It was agreed that the Governing Board will meet the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm and will have a few meet in person by rsvp and the rest meet through Zoom.

Dave Wikman moved that Jackie Murphy be appointed to the Governing Board. Shirley Albers seconded; motion passed unanimously.

### **Minister's Report**

Rev. Tim Vander Haar read a report on criteria for reopening-in person worship. It will be read at the Congregational Meeting on September 27, 2020 at 11:30 am on the side lawn of the church. Rain date will be October 4 at 11:30 am.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Greg Scott reviewed the proposed spending plan. This will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Deb Collett was appointed to the committee. Roy Winegar moved that \$3,000 to be moved to unrestricted funds from parsonage fund. It was seconded by Greg Scott. Motion passed.

### **Minister's Report**

Rev. Tim Vander Haar read a report on criteria for reopening-in person worship. It will be read at the Congregational Meeting on September 27, 2020 at 11:30 am on the side lawn of the church. Rain date will be on October 4.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Greg Scott reviewed the proposed spending plan. This will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.

### **Endowment Committee**

Roy Winegar moved that \$3,000 to be moved to unrestricted funds from parsonage fund. It was seconded by Greg Scott. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be held Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm. As it stands now, it will be a Zoom / in person (rsvp).

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

**PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2020**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Current YTD	Current YTD	Current Q1
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Difference	Budget
Pledges Offerings	\$ 46,621	\$ 86,228	\$ 52,613	\$ 33,615	\$ 74,000
Non-pledged Offerings	4,112	5,324	4,000	1,324	6,000
Misc. Income	887	1,494	1,400	94	2,100
Operating Income Endowm	0	0	5,000	-5,000	5,000
Total Op. Income	\$ 51,621	\$ 93,045	\$ 63,013	\$ 30,032	\$ 87,100
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 33,471	\$ 72,364	\$ 84,423	\$-12,059	\$116,940
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 18,150</b>	<b>\$ 20,682</b>	<b>\$-21,410</b>	<b>\$ 42,091</b>	<b>\$-29840</b>

Income exceeded expenses again for August. There was a continued trend for pledged offerings to come in well above our estimate, with many folks contributing all or most of their annual commitment in these first 2 months of our fiscal year. This also allowed us to leave \$5,000 in the Endowment Fund account. We were under our predictions for spending for the month, both in the administrative fixed spending and departmental spending categories. Due to the unpredictability of expenses in these unusual times, our congregation adopted a Quarterly Estimate of Spending instead of an Annual Budget. *(As of 9/4/2020, Greg Scott, Treasurer – ejm)*

**Ricky Brott News**

Thank you for the calls and prayers as I work out health issues.  
 Don't Lose Heart,  
 Ricky



**FCC's Cell Phone**

The church now has a cell phone. You may call 231-260-8559 Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. You will reach Ann (or if she is on another line- leave a message and she will return your call or pass your request forward to the staff member you may need to talk to.

**All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020**

We will be remembering our loved ones from FCC  
 who have passed in this last year.  
 Please tune in!

## Lectionary October, 2020

- THU Oct 01** Job 19:21-27; Psalm 27:7-9, 13-14; Luke 10:1-12
- FRI Oct 02** Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Psalm 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14; Luke 10:13-16
- SAT Oct 03** Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-16; Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130, 135; Luke 10:17-24
- SUN Oct 04** **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:10-15; Matthew 21:33-46
- MON Oct 05** Galatians 1:6-12; Psalm 111:1-2, 5, 7-10; Luke 10:25-37
- TUE Oct 06** Galatians 1:13-24; Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15; Luke 10:38-42
- WED Oct 07** Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalm 117:1-2 (Response Mk. 16:15); Luke 11:1-4
- THU Oct 08** Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 1:69-75; Luke 11:5-13
- FRI Oct 09** Galatians 3:7-14; Psalm 111:1-6; Luke 11:15-26
- SAT Oct 10** Galatians 3:22-29; Psalm 105:2-7; Luke 11:27-28
- SUN Oct 11** **19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**; Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
- MON Oct 12** Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Psalm 113:1-7; Luke 11:29-32
- TUE Oct 13** Galatians 5:1-6; Psalm 119:41-48; Luke 11:37-41
- WED Oct 14** Galatians 5:18-25; Psalm 1:1-4, 6 (Response Jn. 8:12); Luke 11:42-46
- THU Oct 15** Ephesians 1:3-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Luke 11:47-54
- FRI Oct 16** Ephesians 1:11-14; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Luke 12:1-7
- SAT Oct 17** Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalm 8:1-6; Luke 12:8-12
- SUN Oct 18** **20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
- MON Oct 19** Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 100:2-5; Luke 112:13-215
- TUE Oct 20** Ephesians 2:12-22; Psalm 85:8-13; Luke 12:35-38; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 12:39-48
- THU Oct 22** Ephesians 3:14-21; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5; 11-2, 18-19; Luke 12:49-53
- FRI Oct 23** Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 12:54-59
- SAT Oct 24** Ephesians 4:7-16; Psalm 122:1-5; Luke 13:1-9
- SUN Oct 25** **21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Reformation Sunday**  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
- MON Oct 26** Ephesians 4:32-5:8; Psalm 1:1-6; Luke 13:10-17
- TUE Oct 27** Ephesians 5:21-33; Psalm 128:1-5; Luke 13:18-21
- WED Oct 28** Ephesians 6:1-9; Psalm 145:10-14; Luke 13:22-30
- THU Oct 29** Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 144:1-2, 9-10; Luke 13:31-35
- FRI Oct 30** Philippians 1:1-11; Psalm 111:1-6; Luke 14:1-6
- SAT Oct 31** Philippians 1:18-26; Psalm 42:1-2, 4; Luke 14:1, 7-11