



# Pilgrim Post

October Volume 23 issue 10

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*We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.*

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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## Muskegon CROP HUNGER WALK

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OCTOBER 01, 2023

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MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

*Still Time to sign up to walk or give a donation!  
Stop by our Welcome Center Sunday, that  
morning, or visit [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org)*

## ***LETTER FROM REV. TIM***

*Dear friends,*

My how time marches on. As I was preparing to write this letter, I read an article about the limited access just being opened up to residents and businesses of Lahaina after the wildfire devastation a month and a half ago.

In the days immediately after the fires our Missions and Service department began to get questions about how we might help. I went to the webpage of the Hawai'i Conference of the UCC for ideas. One of the first things that jumped out at me is that there are almost as many UCC churches in Hawai'i as there are in Michigan. Of course it only took a little bit of digging into the history of missionary activity in the Hawai'ian Island to uncover why. If you want to read more about what is happening there I would suggest going to their website

<https://www.hcucc.org/>

Our original intention was to channel funds raised in this congregation directly to the Hawai'i Conference, but they have since asked us to direct gifts for the wildfire relief to the National Office of the UCC

<https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>

You are certainly welcome to give directly, but we are also making this our Mission of the Month here at FCC/UCC. If you wish to donate to the cause, you can make a gift earmarked for that to us, and we will look at what we have received, consider matching it from our Mission funds, and send one check to the national appeal.

Of course we have heard of disaster after catastrophe after disaster here in the U.S.A. and around the world since then, and we will be lifting up opportunities to respond to them through our annual Neighbors in Need and One Great Hour of Sharing appeals on down the road.

As I have often said, God blesses us so that we in turn can bless others. Please give as you are able and as you are led by the Spirit.

*Grace and peace,*

*Rev. Tim*

## ***Our Church Family***

***Prayers are appreciated for continued healing for 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. Those who have lost a loved one.*

### ***Congratulations to:***

*Jenna K. and Ben C. on their marriage Saturday, September 23, 2023.*

### ***Sympathy and prayers to:***

*Bill Hodges and family on the passing of Joyce Hodges. Joyce passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2023. She grew up at FCC then married and moved to Grand Rapids area. After her husband passed, Joyce came back as a member of FCC in 1997, Bill was her mentor. Joyce and Bill fell in love and married at FCC in 1998 (October 24). Joyce was a Sunday School teacher, member of the Caring Callers, and greeter. Her celebration of life will be October 24 at FCC.*

### ***Thank you:***

*To Tom Witmer for organizing the Golf Outing. A great time was had by all!*

## ***October Birthdays***

01 Ryan Wiles, Laine Obzut  
03 Cathy Sander, Leigh Lewis  
05 Britta Portenga  
06 Sarah Vander Haar, Mike Frasier,  
    Sam Koschmann  
09 Karen Fowler, Dan Stewart  
10 Howard Sanden, Helen Lind, Krys Kelly  
12 John Cress, Tom Kitchen  
13 Ron Nelson, Langston Jackson,  
    Mike Akhurst  
16 Joshua Rummery

17 Joan Sanderlin  
19 Tom Munroe, Carol Minnaar  
20 Tracy Lucas, Betsy Peterson  
21 Shirley Buikema  
22 Brewster Willcox  
23 Nancy Bott, Laurie Gasahl  
25 Jim Van Buren  
27 Bob Vanderlaan  
29 Frank Sundquist, Sally Leinicke,  
    Catherine Ward  
30 Curtis Taylor  
    Kathleen Freeman



## ***What's Happening***

### **Congregational Meeting**

Members, please plan to attend an all member Congregational meeting on

**Sunday, October 22, 2023** following church.

We have a few changes that need to be voted on for our church By-Laws. Please review the by-law revision request before the meeting. Our website will have a copy on it as well as some printed copies at the Welcome Center and on the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board.

You may contact Ann in the office as well if you need a copy. See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Thursday Emails:**

Join in on up to date FCC events and information. Also a direct link to our on-line worship service. Just email [michaelm@fccmuskegon.org](mailto:michaelm@fccmuskegon.org) and ask to be put on our Thursday email.

### **Women's Single Group**

We will meet for lunch at the Brunch House on Henry St.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Please rsvp to Judy Dewall at 734-478—3716.

### **No Name Group**

Early Owl, 451 Western Ave., Muskegon

Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Please call church office or sign up at the Welcome Center if you will be attending. Open to all. We have fun and fellowship as we have our meal. Cost is what you order!

If you have any questions please contact the office

231-726-3254

### **Sugar Free Cookies for Sunday Fellowship**

Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship. Those whose last names begin with the letters O through S please bring cookies or treats. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated.

### **Hi Facebook Users!**

The FCC Development task force is asking for your help to spread the word. Whenever you see a FCC Facebook post please "like" and "share" with your Facebook friends.

Thanks so much! *Member Development*

### **Sunday, October 15**

You are invited to stay for a Trivia Event in Fellowship Hall at 11:45. It will be fun to see how quickly you can answer! Sip coffee, tea or juice and you can even munch on the Choir baked goods you purchased. Starts at 11:45 am. Thank you to Diane and Tom Goodman as our hosts! Please sign up at Welcome Center or call the office.

*Sponsored by Congregational Life*

*Trivia Event  
Fellowship Hall  
October 15th*



### **Worship & Music Bake Sale Fundraiser**

Sunday, October 15.

Buy a special treat or two and eat it while playing Trivia!

And then buy some for home!

This helps supports our department.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

The first Saturday of the month we have our Mobile Food Pantry. We could use volunteers to help unload the Feeding America Truck and help disperse the food. Please contact Donna Lachniet if you can help.

Tuesday is Food Pantry here at FCC (**with the exception of Oct. 24**). We receive names with appointments from Love In The Name of Christ. If you know of anyone in need of food please have them call Love at 231-773-3448 before Tuesday. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Shirley Lawton or call the church office.

The last Saturday of each month we hold a Saturday Breakfast which is open to the community. The breakfast is from 9-10:30 am and is free to all. Please contact Donna Lachniet if you are willing to volunteer to help us.

### **Our Mission For The Month Of October:**

Maui – 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund (through the UCC at

<https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.)

See Rev. Tim's Letter for more information.

### **GSA Youth Meetings:**

Every Monday at 7:00 pm. in Youth room downstairs at FCC.

Oct. 1 we will be decorating sugar cookies!

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Mondays at 7:00 pm GSA Youth Meetings

Tuesdays - LOVEINC. Food Pantry (please contact Love INC for an appointment, 231-773-3448)- please note there will not be pantry October 24<sup>th</sup>.

October 1 – CropWalk

October 15 – Worship and Music Fundraising Bake Sale

October 15 - Trivia Event following Church sponsored by Congregational Life

October 22 – Congregational Meeting

October 29 – Children and adults invited to wear costume to church (sponsored by Member Dev.)

November 5 – All Saints Sunday

## GOVERNING BOARD NOTES

Meeting was called to order by President Eddie Jankowski at 6:36 pm.

Opening Prayer was offered by Rev. Vander Haar.

Agenda was approved with item A: check Signers under new business removed.

Minutes approved without corrections.

**President's Report** Eddie reported that McGovern's used our dishwasher for Irish Fest. They thanked the church and will pay \$400.

**Minister's Report** Because we have more and more events at the church, Rev. Tim would like to make sure everyone reads each department's minutes before coming to the Governing Board meetings. This way we only need to talk about items that need to have approval on an actionable item.

**Treasurer's Report:** The second month of the fiscal year ended with positive net revenue of \$430. Stewardship is still active. We did need to take \$10,000 from Endowments to support cash flow, however, this is under the \$15,750 budgeted amount.

Building and Grounds, Congregational Life, Missions and Service, and Worship and Music all submitted reports, no action needed.

Christian Education Motion was made by Shirley Albers and seconded by Marty Lalick to approve that Deanne Hannibal be appointed to the Christian Education Department. Motion passed.

Member Care Motion was made by Barb Klingenmaier to approve Kathleen Freeman for membership. Roy Portenga seconded the motion. Motion approved. Welcome Kathleen!

### Unfinished Business

Roy Portenga reviewed any questions that the Board had on the revised by laws. A motion was made by Roy Portenga and seconded by Caroly Spink, that was carried was the restated by-laws that were sent out by Ann Taylor in August was adopted with the following changes:

1. Article 1.3 on page one has the word "(modified)" added
2. 1.3 on page two has the words his and him when referring to Jesus capitalized.
3. 3.2.1 on page 5 has the following sentence added: "In no event shall a past President who is not a continuing member of Governing Board serve consecutive years on Governing Board in that capacity."
4. 3.5 and 3.5.3: the Department of Mission and Service shall be known as the Department of Missions and Service.
5. 3.5.4: the language under the heading will read: "This department shall be responsible for managing and maintaining the upkeep of the physical properties of the Church. It shall advise the Governing Board regarding necessary improvements and repairs that require approval.
6. 3.5.6: the words through "various means including" calling.... will be added.
7. 4.2: the word church will be capitalized.
8. 5.1: the words Department and Committee will not be capitalized.

An announcement will be made from the pulpit that we have revised our by-laws and will need to have Congregational approval at the Congregational meeting on October 22, 2023, to enact the changes. A copy will be made available by request either electronically or on paper.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting: October 16, 2023

Submitted by Deb Collett, *pro tem*



## PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2022-2023 YTD Budget	2022-2023 YTD Difference	2022-2023 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$22,409	\$ 61,087	\$ 65,316	\$ - 4,229	\$ 320,000
Non-pledged Offerings	1,906	4,388	3,124	1,264	31,145
Misc. Income	300	600	800	- 200	52,867
Operating Income Endow.	10,000	10,000	15,750	- 5,7500	95,056
Total Op. Income	\$ 34,615	\$76,076	\$ 84,990	\$ - 8,914	\$ 499,067
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 36,207	\$75,646	\$ 84,990	\$ - 9,344	\$ 499,067
<b>NET TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ - 1,592</b>	<b>\$ 430</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 430</b>	<b>0</b>

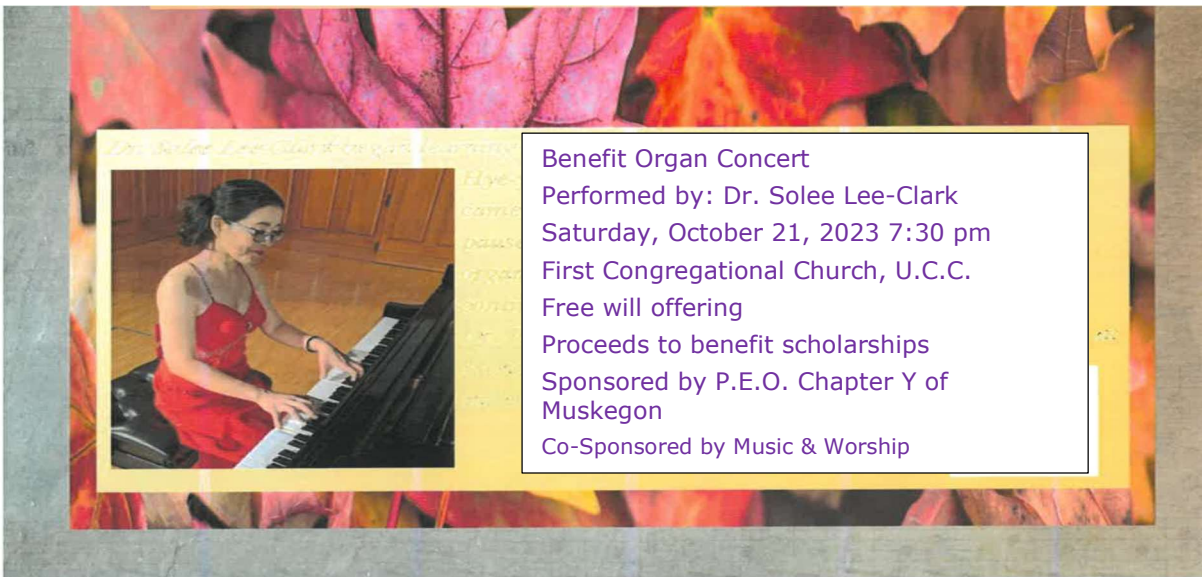
Expenses exceeded income for the month of August by \$1,592, while year-to-date income continues to exceed expenses by \$430. Actual income and expenses both underperformed budget expectations.

Income continues to come in lower than budgeted, primarily due to our pledge goal of \$320,000 not yet being met.

A transfer of \$10,000 from Endowment funds to operations was made due to cash flow concerns. However, our budget expectation was that up to \$15,750 would be needed this month, allowing us to leave the difference in our invested funds.

*(As of 9/12/2023, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)*

### **PEO Benefit Concert featuring Dr. Solee Lee-Clark:**



Benefit Organ Concert  
 Performed by: Dr. Solee Lee-Clark  
 Saturday, October 21, 2023 7:30 pm  
 First Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
 Free will offering  
 Proceeds to benefit scholarships  
 Sponsored by P.E.O. Chapter Y of  
 Muskegon  
 Co-Sponsored by Music & Worship

### ***Muskegon Museum of Art***

Come see some beautiful artwork and support members of our FCC church family! The 94<sup>th</sup> Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition opens on Thursday **September 28, 2023** with a reception and artist awards ceremony at 5 PM. FCC members **Gary Beatty** and **Elisabeth Major** have multiple artworks that were selected for this competitive show.

The exhibit will be at the Muskegon Museum of Art, 296 W. Webster Avenue Muskegon, Michigan 49440, from September 28<sup>th</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## OCTOBER LECTIONARY

### **SUN Oct 01 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday Muskegon Area CROP Walk**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

**MON Oct 02** Zechariah 8:1-3; Psalm 102:16-23; Luke 9:46-50;

**TUE Oct 03** Zechariah 8:20-23; Psalm 87:1-7; Luke 9:51-56

**WED Oct 04** Nehemiah 2:1-8; Psalm 137:1-6; Luke 9:57-62

**THU Oct 05** Nehemiah 8:1-12; Psalm 19:7-10; Luke 10:1-12

**FRI Oct 06** Baruch 1:15-22; Psalm 79:1-5, 8-9; Luke 10:13-16

**SAT Oct 07** Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Psalm 69:32-36; Luke 10:17-24

### **SUN Oct 08 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

**MON Oct 09** Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11; Jonah 2:2, 3, 4, 5, 8; Luke 10:25-37

**TUE Oct 10** Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 130:1-4, 7-8; Luke 10:38-42

**WED Oct 11** Jonah 4:1-11; Psalm 86:3-6, 9-10, 15; Luke 11:1-4

**THU Oct 12** Malachi 3:13-30; Psalm 1 (Response – Psalm 40:4); Luke 11:5-13

**FRI Oct 13** Joel 1:13-15; Psalm 9:1-2, 5, 7, 11; Luke 11:15-26

**SAT Oct 14** Joel 4:12-21; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Luke 11:27-28

### **SUN Oct 15 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

**MON Oct 16** Romans 1:1-7; Psalm 98:1-4; Luke 11:29-32

**TUE Oct 17** Romans 1:16-25; Psalm 19:1-4; Luke 11:37-41

**WED Oct 18** Romans 2:1-11; Psalm 62:1-6, 8; Luke 11:42-46

**THU Oct 19** Romans 3:21-29; Psalm 130:1-7; Luke 11:47-54

**FRI Oct 20** Romans 4:1-8; Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11; Luke 12:1-7

**SAT Oct 21** Romans 4:13, 16-18; Psalm 105:6-9, 42-43; Luke 12:8-12

### **SUN Oct 22 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-22; Psalm 99; I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

**MON Oct 23** Romans 4:20-25; Luke 1:68-75; Luke 12:13-21

**TUE Oct 24** Romans 5:12, 15, 17-21; Psalm 40:6-9, 16; Luke 12:35-38

**WED Oct 25** Romans 6:12-18; Psalm 124; Luke 12:39-48

**THU Oct 26** Romans 6:19-23; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Luke 12:49-53

**FRI Oct 27** Romans 7:18-2; Psalm 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Luke 12:54-59

**SAT Oct 28** Romans 8:1-11; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 13:1-9

### **SUN Oct 29 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday**

Deuteronomy 34:1-2; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; I Thessalonians 2:1-8;  
Matthew 22:34-46

**MON Oct 30** Romans 8:12-17; Psalm 68:1, 3, 5-6, 19-20; Luke 13:10-17

**TUE Oct 31** Romans 8:18-25; Psalm 126:1-6; Luke 13:18-21