



Pilgrim Post

August Volume 23 issue 08

1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49441 Email: fcc@fccmuskegon.org
Phone: 231-726-3254 Cell: 231-260-8559 Website: fccmuskegon.org

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.



CHURCH PICNIC

Join us for a fun afternoon Sunday, August 20th!

After church we will head to the picnic at
The Elk's Park, 5447 Lake Harbor Rd. in Norton Shores.

FCC (Congregational Life) will supply
the hot dogs and hamburgers,
We ask that you bring a side dish to pass, as well as
a lawn chair if you would be more comfortable in
that instead of a picnic table.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center on or before August 13
if you will be attending. This is will help in getting enough
hamburgers/hot dogs, paper plates, etc.

Please contact the church or indicate on the sign up sheet if
you need a ride. Please include a phone number.

LETTER FROM REV. TIM

Dear friends,

I am writing to talk a little bit about our Mission of the Month for August, the organization known as Muskegon County Cooperating Churches. MCCC traces it's roots to the founding in 1941 of the Muskegon County Council of Churches. And we (First Congregational) were there.

Over the years MCCC has been involved in many projects for the benefit of the community:

- Working with PTA's to provide milk to school children during WWII
- Providing vacation bible school resources and training for Sunday School teachers
- Sponsoring choir workshops and pulpit exchanges
- Coordinating weekly religious services at Brookhaven
- Working with social services as part of the Goose Egg Lake Project to organize a preschool program and a clinic
- Facilitating a jail/prison ministry led for 20 years by the Rev. Ed Rogers
- Helping to start Foster Grandparents, and Muskegon Country Habitat for Humanity
- Helping to organize the Westshore Jewish/Christian Dialogue (now the West Michigan Academic Consortium)
- Bringing into being the Westshore Dispute Resolution Center, which has grown into the Mediation and Restorative Services for Muskegon, Oceana, Mason and Manistee Counties
- Creating in Muskegon an Institute for Healing Racism
- Continuing to be very involved in addressing Food Insufficiency through scheduling and assisting with Mobile Food Pantries throughout the Muskegon area, and providing oversight for the annual CROP hunger walk.

One of our members, Dr. Billy Page, was very active, serving as President, and he and I helped write the current mission statement:

Moved by the love of Christ,
we seek reconciliation and justice for all,
reaching across barriers that divide
to alleviate poverty, both spiritual and physical.

Offices for MCCC and for several of the organizations it fostered were for a number of years at "the Yellow House" which we maintained across the street where our Saturday Breakfast Garden is now located. The Peace and Justice Committee of MCCC is organizing a Prayer Walk Against Gun Violence on August 27. Please see the notice about that elsewhere in this Post.

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.

We welcome our new members:

Adam and Katie Brandow live in North Muskegon have a daughter Marie born in February 2023 and a three year old golden doodle named Pepper. They moved to West Michigan in 2019 from Nebraska where Adam's job took them after they got married. Originally from the east side of the state in Bay City, Adam and Katie have been around big water, their entire lives, but have fallen in love with the west side of the state, and are excited to raise their family in this community and be a part of the church. For hobbies, Adam and Katie love to travel, play golf and spend time on the water.

Judy and Dale Brinks grew up in the Holland area and moved to Grand Haven after they were married. They now divide their time between Fruitport and Naples. They have 3 sons, three grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Judy enjoys reading and genealogy while Dale enjoys reading and volunteering at the Naples Botanical Garden. Both appreciate the music and message at UCC.

Catherine Ward lives and works in Muskegon. She has lived in Muskegon all her life and has three beautiful daughters and daughter-in-law, and a grandson that all live locally. Catherine loves to go fishing, likes to crochet, and would love to go camping.

Sympathy and prayers to: Dale and Judy Brinks in the passing of Dale's brother, Larry Brinks. He passed away July 12, 2023.

August Birthdays



01 Brennen Kartes, Chris Miller,
Stan Schnepf
02 Barbara Boucher, Lexus Chambers
04 Julie Olson
05 Bob Kieft, Khamiya Reynolds
07 Jim Korbecki
08 Robyn Egeler, Aleia Wade-Goudie
10 Steve Doctor, Jean Keene,
Norma McEwen
11 Laura Bednarczyk
12 Vivian Johnson
15 Jan Entsminger
16 Idris Muhammad
17 Ryan Portenga, Chuck Steffens,
Austin Decker, Scott McEwen

18 Mara Bullion
19 Sue Munroe, Chris Sanden,
Pat Johnson
20 Lisa Longpre
21 John Wahlberg, Scott Peterson
23 Tammy Wade
24 Willie Jones
25 Joshua Mack, Dick McEwen
26 Cindy Maguire
27 Alissa Novoselick
28 John Frein
29 Cynthia Bates-Twining, Kendra Andrie
31 Jack Crampton

What's Happening

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 and ask to be put on our Thursday email.

Sugar Free Cookies for Sunday Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship. Those whose last names begin with the letters E- J. We have plenty of sugar cookies and bars so for the month of August, Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are being requested. Thank you to all who have donated other cookies. We are well stocked with those.

PRAYER WALK AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

The Muskegon County Cooperating Churches Peace and Justice Committee is planning a **PRAYER WALK AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE on Sunday, August 27 at 4 PM-6 PM.** We will begin by gathering at Hackley Park at 3:45 PM. We hope our interfaith community will partner and join with us. We will be working with Muskegon County, the City of Muskegon, and other entities in our community to make this a safe place. We will begin at Hackley park with music and prayer and move to 7 different locations. Those who wish to stay in the park to sing and pray as others walk, may do so. We are arranging musical groups to provide prayer through song. Please contact Rev, Tim Vander Haar at tvanderhaa@hotmail.com if your group would like to provide songs of peace and justice. We will have a prayer leader and music available in the park.

(see poster at right)

No Name Group

We will meet for dinner
Thursday, August 10th at 5:30 p.m.
at The Egg Roll House
1084 Sternberg Rd. in Norton Shores.
Host is Charles Steffens.
Please sign up at the Welcome Center
if you plan to attend.
Hope you can join us!

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches Peace and Justice
Committee is sponsoring an Interfaith

PRAYER WALK AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

United we gather with love for God and our neighbors
In honor of the many killed by gun violence in our community



we gather wearing

BLAZE ORANGE



the color that people wear in the outdoors
that proclaims in LIVING COLOR ---



**PLEASE SEE ME
DO NOT SHOOT ME**



Sunday, August 27 --- 4:00-6:00 pm
Hackley Park – gather at 3:45 pm



PRAYING! SINGING! SOLIDARITY! SAFETY! ACTION!

The Walk will begin and end at Hackley Park. Prayer and singing will take place in the park during the prayer walk. We will be united in prayer regardless of your ability to physically make the journey. Stops will include worship locations, our county building, and our city building.

Orange Stoles, String backpacks and orange ribbons will be given out as supplies last. Please wear orange. We hope to have a limited supply of orange shirts to purchase. St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be graciously providing water and light snacks. They will also be our last prayer stop before we return to the park.



For more information or with questions – CONTACT:
Muskegon County Cooperating Churches
231-727-6000 or office.mccc@frontier.com



Have You Seen Our Lobby Display Case?

The train is almost at the end of the tracks as we approach our projected goal. There is still time to offer your support for our journey!



Volunteer Opportunities

+Building and Grounds Crew: We welcome any help with light outside jobs and indoor work around the church on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you have time available on Mondays, Tuesday, or Thursdays and would like to help, we welcome that also! You may contact Harley Obzut at the church office, or just come on in!

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.

Every Tuesday is Food Pantry here at FCC. 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.



OBOE RECITAL JONATHAN KRAUSE

6:30pm- Friday 8/18/2023

First Congregational Church UCC

1201 Jefferson St

Muskegon, MI 49441

Featuring works by-

Bimstein, Goossens,

Koehne, Martinů, and Mozart

Jonathan Krause invites you to his Oboe Recital.

He is a member and choir scholar of FCC and is currently pursuing his degree at the University of Michigan

Jonathan and his family have shared their musical talents for our worship services on several occasions.

SAVE THE DATE:

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

Tuesdays - LOVEINC. Food Pantry (please contact Love INC for an appointment, 231-773-3448)

August 5 (Saturday) Mobile Food Pantry at FCC, 10:00 a.m.

August 10 (Thursday) – No Name Group at The Egg Roll House, 5:30 p.m.

August 12 (Saturday) – GSA Group meets at FCC, 2:00 – 4:00

August 18 (Friday) – Oboe Recital Jonathan Krause, 6:30 pm at FCC

August 20 – Church Picnic at Elk's Park following church

August 26 - Saturday Breakfast, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

August 27 – Prayer Walk Against Gun Violence gather at 3:45 at Hackley Park

September 10 – Homecoming Sunday

October 1 – CropWalk

October 22 - Fall Grand West Association Meeting/FCC Muskegon is Host, 3:00 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD NOTES

Meeting was called to order by President, Shirley Albers at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer was given by Rev. Vander Haar.

Agenda and minutes of the June meeting were approved by consensus.

President's Report – Shirley Albers stated, "it has been a pleasure to serve you and thank each of you that has served on the Governing Board this year."

Election of Officers:

President: Marty Lalick nominated Eddie Jankowski. Patty Kelly seconded.
Nomination approved.

Vice President: Robin Murphy nominated Melissa Wikman. Patty Kelly seconded.
Nomination approved.

Clerk: there being no nominations this is tabled until the next meeting.

Treasurer: Deb Collett continues to serve in this position.

Minister's Report: Rev. Tim thanks everyone for all they do for our church. He gave an update on the Bylaw revisions and hopes to have copies of them available for next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Collett reported that the end of the year report reflected a balanced year end. Originally, the plan was to take up to \$96,977 from our Endowments to meet our needs. However, we only needed \$51,830, thanks to our departments for their careful spending and our income exceeding our plan.

Building and Grounds, Christian Education, Missions and Service, and Worship and Music all submitted reports, no action needed.

Congregational Life Motion made by Roy Winegar and seconded by Robin Murphy to waive the term limit for Marty Lalick as Chair of the Department for one year. Motion passed.

Member Care Recommended that Joel Zuidema be approved for membership. Melissa Wikman seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business- Member Outreach Committee is working on making the facilities more attractive and getting the message out to the community of what we are.

Bylaw Update: See Minister's Report.

Jefferson Towers: Nothing to report at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by Deb Collett, *pro tem*

*The next Governing Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023
at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Any member of FCC may attend.*

PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for June 2023

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2022-2023 YTD Budget	2022-2023 YTD Difference	2022-2023 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$17,206	\$ 287,116	\$ 279,489	\$ 7,627	\$ 279,489
Non-pledged Offerings	1, 670	30,570	25,500	5,070	25,500
Misc. Income	3,850	52,036	55,000	-2,965	55,000
Operating Income Endow.	16,830	51,830	96,977	- 45,147	96,977
Total Op. Income	\$ 39,556	\$421,552	\$ 456,966	\$ -35,414	\$ 456,966
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 31,745	\$421,552	\$ 456,966	\$ - 35,414	\$ 456,966
NET TOTAL:	\$ 7,810	0	0	0	0

Income exceeded expenses for the month of June by \$7,810, allowing for a break-even fiscal year end. Year to date income and expenses both under-performed budget expectations. Income was less than expected, primarily due to over \$45K in Endowment funds that were not needed for operations. These funds remain invested.

Expenses were under budget due to the delay of some maintenance projects, careful spending, staff negotiated discounts, and the use of designated funds for some expenses. As a result, our actual year-end net total expenses were \$35,414 under our budgeted expectation for the year.
(As of 7/06/2023, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)



What is GSA?

Genders and **S**exualities **A**lliance

What can I expect?

Games, snacks, welcoming faces in a safe space, a tour of our new GSA Room.

Who is welcome?

Everyone! This is a chance to see what we're all about and offer your input as well! What would YOU like to see happen?

What does GSA do?

Build community, offer a safe space for youth to be themselves, be creative, socialize with others who are LGBTQ+ identifying or allies, etc.

Is this a religious event?

NO! The Open and Affirming task force of FCC is sponsoring this and leading the group, but it is not a function of the church or part of "Sunday School."

AUGUST LECTIONARY

- TUE Aug 01** Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Psalm 103:6-13; Matthew 13:36-43
- WED Aug 02** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99:5-7, 9; Matthew 13:44-46
- THU Aug 03** Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Psalm 84:1-4, 6, 9; Matthew 13:47-53
- FRI Aug 04** Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37; Psalm 81:1-5, 9-10; Matthew 13:54-58
- SAT Aug 05** Leviticus 25:1, 8-15; Psalm 67; Matthew 14:1-12
- SUN Aug 06** **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-17, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
- MON Aug 07** Numbers 11:4b-15; Psalm 81:1, 11-16; Matthew 14:13-21
- TUE Aug 08** Numbers 12:1-13; Psalm 51:1-4, 10-11; Matthew 14:22-36
- WED Aug 09** 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
- THU Aug 10** Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9; Matthew 16:13-23
- FRI Aug 11** Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Psalm 77:11-15, 20; Matthew 16:24-28
- SAT Aug 12** Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Psalm 18:1-3, 46, 50; Matthew 17:14-20
- SUN Aug 13** **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- MON Aug 14** Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20; Matthew 17:22-27
- TUE Aug 15** Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 7-9, 12; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- WED Aug 16** Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 66:103, 5, 8, 16-1; Matthew 18:15-20
- THU Aug 17** Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17; Psalm 114:1-6; Matthew 18:21-19:1
- FRI Aug 18** Joshua 24:1-13; Psalm 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Matthew 19:3-12
- SAT Aug 19** Joshua 24:14-29; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11; Matthew 19:13-15
- SUN Aug 20** **TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 1:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 10:15-28
- MON Aug 21** Judges 2:11-19; Psalm 106:4, 34-347, 39-40, 43-44; Matthew 19:16-22
- TUE Aug 22** Judges 6:11-24a; Psalm 85:8, 10-13; Matthew 19:23-30
- WED Aug 23** Judges 9:6-15; Psalm 21:1-6; Matthew 20:1-16
- THU Aug 24** Judges 11:29-39a; Psalm 40:4, 6-9; Matthew 22:1-14
- FRI Aug 25** Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40
- SAT Aug 26** Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Psalm 128:1-5; Matthew 23:1-12
- SUN Aug 27** **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
- MON Aug 28** I Thessalonians 1:2-5, 8-10; Psalm 149:1-6, 9; Matthew 23:13-22
- TUE Aug 29** I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm 139:1-6; Matthew 23:23-26
- WED Aug 30** I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm 139:7-12; Matthew 23:27-32
- THU Aug 31** I Thessalonians 3:7-13; Psalm 90:3-5, 12-14, 17; Matthew 24:42-51