



# Pilgrim Post

September Volume 23 issue 09

1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49441 Email: [fcc@fccmuskegon.org](mailto:fcc@fccmuskegon.org)  
Phone: 231-726-3254 Cell: 231-260-8559 Website: [fccmuskegon.org](http://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.*

HOMECOMING  
SUNDAY  
September 10, 2023

Come celebrate God's love with us!

Worship together 10:30 a.m

Motet Choir

Children Sunday School Begins



## ***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:***

Gary Neal and Chris McGuigan on the birth of their grandson. Oliver Gary Moore was born on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Oakland, CA to Alex and Dan Moore.

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

The family and friends of Stanley Schnepf. Stanley passed away at the age of 86 on August 3, 2023. His service was held at FCC on August 10. Stan recently joined First Congregational Church transferring from McGraft Congregational Church. He worked as an Occupational Therapist for Muskegon Public Schools for many years and served as a coach for various swim teams at the school. Stan enjoyed golfing, swimming, fishing, word search puzzles and drawing elaborate doodles for everyone he met.

To Dan, Holly, and Madison Stewart on the passing of Dan's mother, Julie Stewart. The funeral service was Wednesday, August 23 at First Presbyterian Church.

## **September Birthdays**

01 Joanne Blakkan

04 Andrea Rockwood, Rocky Decker,  
Gwen Fosse, Madi Stewart

06 Gail Jones, Stephanie Thommen

08 Joyce Lemieux, Jordan Chambers

09 Julie Schaub, Pat Pimley, Don Duffey  
Lachlan Twining

11 Lorretta Bonsall

12 William Ferriby

13 Barb Klingenmaier, Josh Kartes

15 Carol Thompson

16 Rebecca Andrie, Laura Wiles

17 Susan Blakey, Donna Apple,  
Allison Keessen

20 Lincoln Wiles

21 Roy Portenga

22 Mark Bednarczyk

21 John Wahlberg, Scott Peterson

23 Bob Bouwkamp, Suzi Cress

24 Cheri Bouwkamp, Betty Vanderweele,  
Jak Mercer IV, Meghan Lawton

25 Margo Atwell

27 Kristyn Anacker

28 Barb Wenk, Scott Lachniet

29 Paul Krause



## *What's Happening*

### *Thank You!*

*Thank you to all who made our picnic such a success. Thank you for making food, cooking food, loading up cars, transporting members, setting up tables, organizing, cleaning up, and waiting with me for Tim to return with the trailer.*

*It really takes a village to make today possible. You are all awesome and wonderful. A special thank you to Tom Chadwick for reserving the pavilion.*

### *Thursday Emails*

Join in on up-to-date FCC events and information. There is 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*

*Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.*

*Muskegon Country Club*

*Please call Connie Cottrell 231-744-9640. or Sue Schuiteman 231-780-2617 to rsvp.*

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

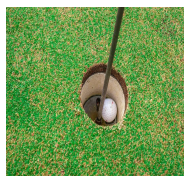
Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship. Those whose last names begin with the letters **K- N**. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are being requested. We have plenty of sugar cookies and bars for the month of September. Thank you to all who have donated other cookies. We are well stocked with those.

### *Mobile Food Pantry - September 9*

The first Saturday of September is over Labor Day weekend so we will have our Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. We could use volunteers to help unload the Feeding America Truck and help disperse the food. Please contact Donna Lachniet if you can help.

### *Volunteers For Building and Grounds*

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, or just come on in!



## *FCC Golf Outing*

Sunday, September 24, 2023 3 p.m.  
Chase Hammond Golf Course - \$20 per golfer.  
Anyone may join us for Dinner at North Side Pub after golf  
(that is additional / you order off the menu).  
Please sign up at Welcome Center.

## *Growing Hope Update*

FCC has been responding to world hunger issues with this non-profit since 2015. Our original farm partner in Greenville (who donated 62 of his acreage to our project) retired in 2018. We have since been blessed to be able to partner with another farmer in Moline who is currently able to donate 10 acres to Growing Hope. Take a look at our progress to date. Despite the challenges over the last several years we continue to multiply our gifts to help others. Many thanks for your help in growing lasting solutions to world hunger! Stay tuned for announcements about another Noisy Offering coming in November.

### GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY

YEAR	FCC DONATION	CROP/ACREAGE	CROP INCOME/ DONATION TO GHG
2015	\$ 5,000	Winter Wheat/62	\$ 17,498
2016	\$ 4,000	Corn/62	\$ 28,963
2017	\$ 4,000	Corn/Soybeans/62	\$ 22,671
2018	\$ 4,500	Corn/62	\$ 24,000
2019	\$ 4,000	Corn/30	\$ 15,750
2020	\$ 5,000	Corn/10	\$ 12,563
2021	\$ 5,000	Corn/10	\$ 14,952
2022	\$ 5,000	Corn/10	Yet to be harvested
2023	Yet to be gifted/donated after our Noisy Offering in November		

## *Looking Ahead:*

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

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

Wednesdays Motet Choir Rehearsals 7:00 p.m. in sanctuary

Saturday, September 9 – Mobile Food Pantry

September 10 – Homecoming / Communion Sunday

September 24 – Golf Outing

September 30 - Saturday Breakfast 9:00-10:30 a.m.

October 1 – Annual Muskegon CROP Walk! Get a team from your congregation – and join us in helping to overcome hunger here in Muskegon and globally. Want more info? Contact Tim Breed at [muskegoncropwalk@gmail.com](mailto:muskegoncropwalk@gmail.com).

## GOVERNING BOARD NOTES

Meeting was called to order by President, Eddie Jankowski at 6:30 pm.

Rev. Tim Vander Haar opened with prayer.

Motion was made by Shirley Albers and seconded by Judy Wilcox to elect Donna Lachniet as Clerk. Motion approved.

The August agenda and minutes of July meeting were approved.

President's Report August 20<sup>th</sup>'s Church picnic was well organized and attended, more children than expected. Special thanks to Christian Education for games and clean-up crew.

Minister's Report Rev. Tim echoed Pres. Eddie's remarks on the success of the church picnic. He mentioned he will be on a vacation over Labor Day and has arranged for Kristen Orion to lead worship services on September 3.

Treasurer's Report Preliminary Monthly Financial Report for July was reviewed. The first month of the fiscal year ended with positive net revenue of \$2,022. Stewardship campaign has not yet risen over 85% response rate of regular pledgers.

Finance Committee has approved two fundraisers for the Worship and Music Department:  
1. Candlelight Concert program 2. Music and Staff Singers program.

Endowment Committee \$41,147 from the Reichert Fund will be used to repair and replace the leaking flat roof sections of the building. \$16,830.33 was withdrawn from the funds invested with the United Church Funds to balance the operating fund at the end of FY22-23.

Building and Grounds Department to refer the Laskco bid for replacing 83 thermostats and installing a digital heating system with a project cost of \$157,919 to Finance/Endowments with the recommendation that the work proceed before the heating season. Motion made by Shirley Albers, seconded by Marty Lalick. Motion passed. Governing Board agrees with B & G to add signage at church entrances to have "No Smoking" within 25 feet of entrances and also add signage indicating that the church building is "Weapons Free." Harley O. will implement.

Christian Education Rev. Tim reported that Gillian Major will be the Sunday School Director and Jessica Krause the Youth Group and GSA Activities Director.

Missions & Service July's Saturday Breakfast served 108 adults and 18 Children with help from 32 volunteers.

*The next Governing Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Any member of FCC may attend.*

## PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for July 2023

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2022-2023 YTD Budget	2022-2023 YTD Difference	2022-2023 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$38,679	\$ 38,679	\$ 46,144	\$ - 7,465	\$ 320,000
Non-pledged Offerings	2,482	2,482	1,411	1,071	31,145
Misc. Income	300	300	400	- 100	52,867
Operating Income Endow.	0	0	0	0	95,056
Total Op. Income	\$ 41,461	\$41,461	\$ 47,955	\$ -6,494	\$ 499,067
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 39,439	\$39,439	\$ 46,148	\$ - 6,709	\$ 499,067
<b>NET TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 2,022</b>	<b>\$ 2,022</b>	<b>\$ 1,807</b>	<b>\$ 215</b>	<b>0</b>

Income exceeded expenses for the month of July by \$2,022. Actual income and expenses both underperformed budget expectations. Income was less than expected, due to our pledge goal of \$320,000 not yet being met.

*(As of 8/09/2023, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)*

### Did You Know:

July's Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry served 240 households (608 individuals) with help from 32 volunteers.

July Saturday Breakfast served 108 adults and 18 children with help from 32 volunteers



## SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY

**FRI Sep 01** I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12; Matthew 25:1-13

**SAT Sep 02** I Thessalonians 4:9-11; Psalm 98:1, 7-9; Matthew 25:14-30

**SUN Sep 03 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21;  
Matthew 16:21-28

**MON Sep 04** I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Luke 4:16-30

**TUE Sep 05** I Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Luke 4:31-37

**WED Sep 06** Colossians 1:1-8; Psalm 52:8-9; Luke 4:38-44

**THU Sep 07** Colossians 1:9-14; Psalm 98:2-6; Luke 5:1-11

**FRI Sep 08** Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 100; Luke 5:33-39

**SAT Sep 09** Colossians 1:21-23; Psalm 54:1-2, 4, 6; Luke 6:1-15

**SUN Sep 10 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**MON Sep 11** Colossians 1:24-2:3; Psalm 62:5-6, 8; Luke 6:6-11

**TUE Sep 12** Colossians 2:6-15; Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11; Luke 6:12-19

**WED Sep 13** Colossians 3:1-11; Psalm 145:2-3, 10-13; Luke 6:20-26

**THU Sep 14** Colossians 3:12-17; Psalm 150; Luke 6:27-38

**FRI Sep 15** I Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11; Luke 6:39-42

**SAT Sep 16** I Timothy 1:15-17; Psalm 113:1-7; Luke 6:43-49

**SUN Sep 17 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12;  
Matthew 18:21-35

**MON Sep 18** I Timothy 2:1-8; Psalm 28:2, 6-9; Luke 7:1-10

**TUE Sep 19** I Timothy 3:1-13; Psalm 101:1-3, 5, 6; Luke 7:11-17

**WED Sep 20** I Timothy 3:14-16; Psalm 111:1-6; Luke 7:31-35

**THU Sep 21** I Timothy 4:12-16; Psalm 111:7-9; Luke 7:36-50

**FRI Sep 22** I Timothy 6:2-12; Psalm 49:5-9, 16-19 *Response* Mt. 5:3; Luke 8:1-3

**SAT Sep 23** I Timothy 6:13-16; Psalm 100:2-5; Luke 8:4-15

**SUN Sep 24 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30;  
Matthew 20:1-16

**MON Sep 25** Ezra 1:1-6; Psalm 126:1-6; Luke 8:16-18

**TUE Sep 26** Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20; Psalm 122:1-5; Luke 8:19-21

**WED Sep 27** Ezra 9:5-9; Tobit 13:1-4, 7-8 (*Apocrypha*); Luke 9:1-6

**THU Sep 28** Haggai 1:1-8; Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b; Luke 9:7-9

**FRI Sep 29** Haggai 1:15 – 2:9; Psalm 43:1-5; Luke 9:18-22

**SAT Sep 30** Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15; Jeremiah 31:10-13; Luke 9:43-45