



Pilgrim Post

NOVEMBER Volume 23 issue 11

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.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

*Thanksgiving is a time to thank
the many hands it takes to grow
together in faith and in love.*

LETTER FROM REV. TIM

Dear friends,

Proverbs 3:16 says, "She (wisdom) is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast." This tree of life seemed to our Finance and Endowment Committees to be an appropriate image for our shared experience at FCC/UCC. There is so much that has come down to us from those who have gone before, that we are tasked with asking, "What are we going to leave to those who come after?"

In days to come, we are going to be hearing more about watering two branches of that tree of life – one is the need to replenish through a capital campaign that we have used for significant projects this year, and the other is how to grow a legacy for the future, so that we continue to have those resources to draw upon for generations to come. Among other things, there will be a presentation after our worship on Sunday, November 5, bringing us some ideas from those who have the expertise and experience to stimulate our thinking. And as a part of all that, Fred Sanderlin has penned some thoughts we would like to share with you.

TREES.

Along with the primary feature of dunes that fall to a beach and the sounds of waves washing against sand, trees are a preferred attraction in hiking in this country.

The recreation and refreshment of the human spirit is immeasurable on the trails at Hoffmaster. Trees stand in friendly diversity, beech, oak, maple, sassafras, yet are viewed in their interconnectedness when their roots are exposed, entangled on the trails. A forest is not a tree standing alone, immune to its neighbor and the young trees sprouting, angling for more light, or the decomposition of one felled by age or accident of nature. Trees are alive. They sustain each other, the very idea of tree is kept by their communion, and most profoundly they communicate need and abundance through a fibrous network of fungi from the ends of their roots. Each tree is a member of a community looking out for itself and others. It could be viewed ideally as a congregation.

Walk your favorite trails, know a fungus in Oregon is estimated to be 2,400 years old and extends for 2,000 acres. It is the largest known organism in the world. Know, in your hiking, something of true life is underfoot and informing of the wonder of God's creation, praying out our appreciation and gratitude, longing for sustainability. We are wise when we act as trees keeping the forest alive and vibrant.

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.*

Welcome New Members:

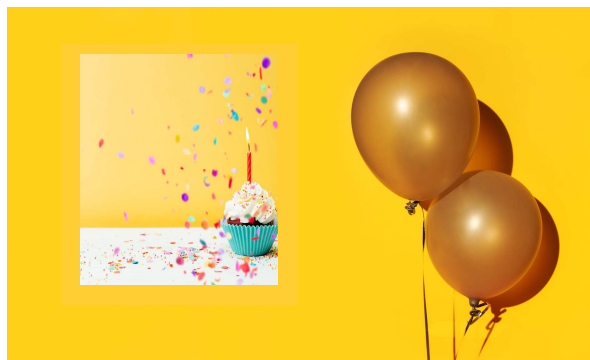
Kathleen Freeman recently moved to Muskegon from Los Angeles, where she served several churches with her late husband, Bill Freeman. She enjoys time with her adult children and grandchildren, walks in nature, exploring museums, traveling to new places, reading, and attending concerts.

Joel Zuidema has four adult children, nine grand kids, four dogs and three cats. This keeps him busy. His hobbies are reading, hiking with his dogs, and playing with his grandchildren. Joel enjoys good conversation and the great outdoors. Moreover, he feels the conviction to reach out to the poor and oppressed. The guiding principle in his life is the love commandment.

November Birthdays

01 Tim Vander Haar, Raymond Williams
02 Anna Grinwis, Cecilia Senecal
03 Tosha Vanderkooi
05 David Lachniet
06 Cathy Simons
07 Roberta Fleischmann, Dave Sander
09 Bruce Bullion, Thea Collier, Willie Ginman
10 Ed Hunt
11 Bob Pummel
12 Bruce Miller, Lauren Sander,
Michaela Sander
13 Jim Bidle

15 Melissa Wikman
16 Adelyn Witmer, Aaron Clark,
Deanne Hannibal, Joyce Bond
18 Chris McGuigan
19 Phyllis Laurin
20 Jamie Kuzma, Emareece Lucas
22 Charde Lowe
23 Deb Witmer
24 David Anacker, Barbara Bates-Lalick
27 Tom Williams, Charlie Ginman,
Kate Bullion, Michelle Kemp
29 Rick Brott, Adam Brandow



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.

Women's Single Group

We will meet for lunch in Grand Haven at JW's Food and Spirits Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Please rsvp to Judy Dewall at 734-478—3716 or sign up at the Welcome Center.

Thanksgiving Feast Sunday, November 19, 2023



Dave's Kountry Katering will be catering and there are take-out options as well as dine-in. Suggested donation is \$22 per person, but we will gladly accept whatever you can give to help off-set the cost. **Reservations are needed by Sunday, November 12th.** Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the church office. There are two different sign up sheets at the Welcome Center -one for dining-in and one for take-out. Suggested Donation is \$22. Hosted by Congregational Life Department with assistance from Member Care and FCC Youth group.

Sugar Free Cookies for Sunday Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship. Those whose last names begin with the letters T through Z please bring cookies or treats during the month of November. 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*

Thank you

To Tom and Diane Goodman for all the work behind the scenes and being fun Trivia Hosts. Trivia will be back (by popular demand) in January! *Sponsored by Congregational Life Dept.*

GSA Youth Meetings:

Every Monday at 7:00 pm. in Youth Room downstairs at FCC.
Please contact Jessica Krause for more information.





Please plan to join our guest speakers from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County as we discuss legacy details for our members, in the Fellowship Hall right after church.

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 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.

SAVE THE DATE:

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Daylight Saving Time ends)

Mondays at 7:00 pm - GSA Youth Meetings

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

November 4 – 10 am Mobile Food Pantry

November 5 – All Saints Sunday also Legacy Planning Discussion

November 23 & 24 – Church office closed for holiday - Happy Thanksgiving!

November 25 – 9-10:30 am Saturday Breakfast

December 10 – 7:00 pm Candlelight Concert

FCC Food Pantry - Love INC gives thousands of dollars worth of groceries to our FCC community pantry each year. A \$20 "Simply Give" purchase creates a \$40 total that is promoted October thru December at the North Muskegon Meijers.

On one day, December 16th, North Muskegon Meijers triples the "Simply Give" donations. \$20 becomes a \$60 value. Tell the cashier when you check out that you want to Simply Give an amount of \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100. This offer is only at the North Muskegon Meijers.



GOVERNING BOARD NOTES

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

Rev. Tim offered opening prayer.

Agenda was approved with "Adoption of Consent Agenda" added under New Business.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the addition of the following words in red in "Section 1.3" of the proposed By-Laws, which wording was approved through the special virtual meeting of the board: "God calls us into the Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism, **communion, passion and victory**. God promises to all who trust in the Gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in **that** kingdom which has no end."

President's Report: Eddie expressed appreciation for ongoing excellent music in worship and successful bake sale for benefit of the Worship and Music Dept. He also called attention to the importance of completing purple forms for all special programs/activities and communicating with the weekend custodial staff about details and expectations from staff.

Minister's Report: Rev. Tim expressed thanks for the work of the By-Laws Committee and expects By-Laws approval at the October 22 Congregational Meeting. The work of Finance and Endowment Committees was also commended.

Clerk's Report: Donna mentioned two new members were welcomed on October 15: Joel Zuidema and Kathleen Freeman. Sharon Miller requested transfer of membership to a church closer to her home while remaining an Associate member at FCC.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Collett reports that even though there is a YTD income shortfall, projected year-end giving usually bring income and expenses into much closer alliance.

Standing Committee and Department Reports required no action items.

New Business: Roy Winegar's motion that the Governing Board adopt the "Consent Agenda" mode of conducting Governing Board meetings was passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Next meeting November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes for departments and Governing Board are available to members of the Church by contacting the Church office.



*Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 5 so set your clock
one hour earlier before you go
to bed on Saturday night!*



PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for September 2023

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2022-2023 YTD Budget	2022-2023 YTD Difference	2022-2023 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$15,729	\$ 76,816	\$ 98,116	\$ - 21,300	\$ 320,000
Non-pledged Offerings	1, 863	6,251	4,659	1,592	31,145
Misc. Income	850	1,450	1,250	200	52,867
Operating Income Endow.	10,607	20,607	20,607	0	95,056
Total Op. Income	\$ 29,048	\$105,124	\$ 124,632	\$ - 19,508	\$ 499,067
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 31,693	\$107,339	\$ 124,632	\$ - 17,294	\$ 499,067
NET TOTAL:	\$ - 2,644	\$ - 2,215	\$ 0	\$ - 2,215	0

Expenses exceeded income for the month of September by \$2,644, bringing year-to-date net total to \$ - 2,215. Actual income and expenses both underperformed budget expectations.

Income continues to come in lower than budgeted, due to our pledge goal of \$320,000 not being met. A transfer of \$10,607 from Endowment funds to operations was made due to cash flow concerns again this month. *(As of 10/09/2023, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)*



Candlelight Fundraiser 2023

Over EIGHTY wonderful Candlelight Concerts have passed over the years, inspiring and entertaining thousands of attendees. To ensure that our next eighty years are a reality, we are once again offering a new way for individuals or families to establish a musical legacy at First Congregational Church! Beginning this Fall, we are offering multiple levels of sponsorship for this highly anticipated annual concert.

All donors or those *in memory of* will be listed in our **December 10, 2023** concert program. Additionally, *score* donations will be labeled and archived in our Music Library with the family name of your choosing. It requires a great deal of funding to produce this concert each year, so every contribution makes a huge difference, no matter the amount! Please pass this along to your friends, family, and neighbors who look forward to this concert year after year. Please direct any questions to Michael Match at the church office (231-726-3254) or tenormatch@aol.com. Thank you!



Levels of Sponsorship

- ____ \$25.00 Candlelight Contributor
- ____ \$50.00 Bell Benefactor
- ____ \$100.00 Instrumental Underwriter
- ____ \$200.00 Score Sustainer
- ____ \$500.00+ Legacy Leader

Please select a sponsorship level, fill out this form and return to the church office or in collection plate on Sunday mornings. Please be sure to LABEL envelope clearly: "Candlelight Fundraiser"
Thank you!

Name: _____
Amount enclosed: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY

- WED Nov 01** **ALL SAINTS** Revelation 7:2-5, 9-15; Psalm 24:1-6; I John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
- THU Nov 02** **ALL SOULS** Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 23; Romans 6:3-9; John 5:37-40
- FRI Nov 03** Romans 9:1-5; Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20; Luke 14:1-6
- SAT Nov 04** Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29; Psalm 94:12-18; Luke 14:1, 7-11
- SUN Nov 05** **REMEMBERING THE SAINTS Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; I Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
- MON Nov 06** Romans 11:29-36; Psalm 69:29-30, 32-33, 35-36; Luke 14:12-14
- TUE Nov 07** Romans 12:5-16; Psalm 131:1-3; Luke 14:15-24
- WED Nov 08** Romans 13:8-10; Psalm 112:1-2, 4-5, 9; Luke 14:25-33
- THU Nov 09** Romans 14:7-12; Psalm 27:1-4, 12-14; Luke 15:1-10
- FRI Nov 10** Romans 15:14-21; Psalm 98:1-4; Luke 16:1-8
- SAT Nov 11** Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Psalm 145:2-5, 10-11; Luke 16:9-15
- SUN Nov 12** **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7
I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- MON Nov 13** Wisdom 1:1-7 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 139:1-10; Luke 17:1-6
- TUE Nov 14** Wisdom 2:23-3:9 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 34:1-2, 15-18; Luke 17:7-10
- WED Nov 15** Wisdom 6:2-11 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 82:3-4, 6-8; Luke 17:11-19
- THU Nov 16** Wisdom 7:22-8:1 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175; Luke 17:20-25
- FRI Nov 17** Wisdom 13:1-9 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 19:1-4; Luke 17:26-37
- SAT Nov 18** Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Psalm 105:1-3, 5, 26-27, 42-43; Luke 18:1-8
- SUN Nov 19** **Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost THANKSGIVING FEAST** Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- MON Nov 20** I Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Luke 18:35-43
- TUE Nov 21** II Maccabees 6:18-31 (*Apocrypha*) Psalm 3:1-7; Luke 19:1-10
- WED Nov 22** II Maccabees 7:1, 20-31 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15; Luke 19:11-28
- THU Nov 23** I Maccabees 2:15-19 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15; Luke 19:41-44
Or Thanksgiving Readings Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; II Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19
- FRI Nov 24** I Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59 (*Apocrypha*); I Chronicles 28:10-13; Luke 19:45-48
- SAT Nov 25** I Maccabees 6:1-13 (*Apocrypha*); Psalm 9:1-3, 5, 15, 18; Luke 20:27-40
- SUN Nov 26** **REIGN OF CHRIST** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46
- MON Nov 27** Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Daniel 3:52-56 (*Apocrypha*); Luke 21:1-4
- TUE Nov 28** Daniel 2:31-45; Daniel 3:57-61 (*Apocrypha*); Luke 21:5-11
- WED Nov 29** Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Daniel 3:62-67 (*Apocrypha*); Luke 21:12-19
- THU Nov 30** Daniel 6:12-28; Daniel 3:68-74 (*Apocrypha*); Luke 21:20-28