



# Pilgrim Post

April Volume 25 issue 4

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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.*

## Holy Week Schedule

April 13-20, 2025

<b>Palm Sunday/Passion</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>

**Motet Choir, Canterbury Bells, Brass**  
*All services will be held in the sanctuary.*



# **LETTER FROM REV. TIM**

Dear friends,

From time-to-time folks ask me if we at FCC/UCC have a mission statement. I am never completely sure how to answer because, no, we do not have a concise overarching statement engineered by some marketing consultant. But, nevertheless, I think there is an answer. On the one hand, we could look over the details of our history as a congregation and get a clear picture of what we have been about for the more than 165 years of our existence. We have not been perfect or consistent, or maybe I should say consistently perfect, but there have been some clear themes – beginning with a strong abolitionist stance in the earliest days and continuing as powerful advocates for women’s rights and social justice, as those themes have evolved. Being the history buff that I am, and a preacher who might be accused of loving to hear himself talk, I could go on at length. But on the other hand, why not just turn to our By-Laws. Article 1, Section 2, gives us this statement:

Together we covenant with God, understood in the life and teachings of Jesus:

To walk in God’s ways, known and to be made known to us;  
To commit ourselves to the Christian way as we understand it;  
To affirm our participation in the Church which is the body of Christ; and to serve the world God loves.

I hope to walk through that with you in the coming months, section by section, but to begin with I would like to focus on the first part: that bit about covenant.

A covenant is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties for the performance of some action.” That is not too far off from the way in which it is used in scripture – covenant has to do with relationship and the promises those in relationship make to one another. So, in relationship with God and one another, we make certain promises. The next four points, which I look forward to exploring with you in the months to come, spell out what those commitments look like.

Grace to you all 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.*



## ***April Birthdays***

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Don Pimley                  | 18 Burt Apple; Kurtis Lowe       |
| 02 Ann Vanderlaan              | 19 Patty Kelly                   |
| 03 Ava Crago; Kim Kitchen      | 20 Pat Hunt; Judy Brinks         |
| 04 Abby Keessen                | 21 Trent Sanden                  |
| 05 Carson Doctor               | 22 Neila Hoekstra                |
| 06 Alden Crago                 | 23 Carter Perreault              |
| 09 Fred Sanderlin; Ted Mauseth | 24 Jessica Lawton                |
| 10 Dennis Emmons; Barb Lahnala | 25 Eleanor Wiles                 |
| 13 Carolyn Spink; Mark Bigelow | 26 Beth Carrozza; Doris Mixer    |
| 14 Kathleen Morgan; Dan Kislov | 28 Cheryl Abdelkader             |
| 15 Marc Carrozza; Gary Beatty  | 29 Michelle Bullion; Jason Crago |
| 16 Patty Abdelkader            |                                  |
| 17 Cathy Saunders              |                                  |

## ***Cookies for Sunday Fellowship***

Those whose last names begin with the letters A through D please bring cookies or treats during the month of April. Homemade cookies are also appreciated as are Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies or bars.

## ***Thursday Emails***

Keep current with 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.



## *What's Happening*

### **Youth Easter Egg Hunt**

Youth Easter Egg Hunt will be sponsored by Christian Education. Children nursery through 5th grade (and parents) are invited to the parlor immediately after the worship service for instructions on the Easter Egg Hunt. Visitors are welcome.

There will also be an Easter egg hunt during Holy Week. Hidden colored egg pictures within view of the YouTube video that people would have to look hard to see. A fun family event. Check the calendar and bulletins for further information.

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



*Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy D. at 734-478-3716.*

### **Mobile Food Pantry the first Saturday of the month**



First Congregational Church friends and neighbors **will be hosting mobile food trucks from Feeding America** on the **first Saturday morning of the month**. (with a couple of exceptions). With the partnership of several local churches and organizations, we hope to re-engage many of our regular volunteers in service to food-insecure folks in downtown Muskegon. Donna Lachniet ([DGL2846@aol.com](mailto:DGL2846@aol.com)) will be coordinating the volunteers and needs to have updated contact information for everyone. Please contact Donna to indicate your interest in helping.

## **Saturday Breakfast**

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 or just show up at 8:30 am if you are willing to volunteer.

## **Last Saturday of the Month Saturday Chapel Service**

Cowboy conducts a worship service in the Chapel on Saturdays at 10:45am (following Saturday Breakfast). This is open to all.

*Let's Make A Mess!*

**ACRYLIC LIQUID POUR ART**

***Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 1:00 PM***

Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we know how many students to prepare for. For questions, and a material list, please contact Nancy Doctor or Barb Kartes.



## **Mission of the Month for May**

The Missions & Service Department has chosen Kids Food Basket as the Mission of the Month for May, and they could use some volunteer help!

For the past 12 years Kids Food Basket has expanded here in Muskegon and feeds more than 2,000 children every day. Although monetary gifts are very welcome, we want to offer a more "hands on" opportunity. I'd like to see if there is a Monday in May we can have at least 12 volunteers sign up to help prepare food for these 2,000 children.

On that Monday, we would meet at the KFB(Kids Food Basket) building at 9:30 am and work until 11:00.

**Address is: 1537 S Getty St. Muskegon, MI 49442. 231-747-8575**

Only 1 1/2 hours of your time would be very much appreciated.

Please see Merijo Dulyea to sign up or get more information.

Thank you in advance for helping these children.

Merijo Dulyea

## **3 C's Exercise Class - Cardio Drumming**

3 C's Exercise Class – Choreography + Cardio Drumming Class meets on Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come when you can and be a part of this cardio routine as your schedule allows. \$3.00 per session.

## **Youth Worship Classes on Sunday Morning**

**Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Early Childcare –Room 205 on the second floor. We provide childcare during the 10:30 AM Sunday service for infants through preschoolers. They may be picked up by their parents immediately following the service.**

**Elementary Class for kindergartners through 5th graders is held in Room 201 on the second floor, Sundays at the start of service, 10:30 AM. Parents or guardians are asked to pick up their students following the worship service.**

**GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 17,2025, 6:30 pm**

Call to order 6:34 pm by President Clingman-Scott

Opening prayer by Rev Tim VanderHaar

Approve Agenda

**Motion to approve March 17, 2025, Governing Board Agenda**

Moved by Tom Hardy    Second Pat Johnson

Motion Approved as amended to include Thanking Nicolus Budimir's sociology class for their assistance with Mobile food pantry and Saturday morning breakfasts.

**Motion to approve February 17, 2025, Governing Board Minutes**

Moved by Tom Hardy    Second Pat Johnson Motion Approved as presented.

Presidents Report

Jane appreciates everything everyone is doing.

Minister's Report Mission Statement from our By-Laws

Tim expressed his appreciation for the efforts and due diligence in planning for the transition.

Committee and Department Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Personnel – meeting regularly developing position descriptions.
- ii. Outreach Task Force – looking into creating podcasts.
- iii. Nominating – all departments responding with who is continuing etc.
- iv. Search and Call – Profile to be presented to the congregation next Sunday.

b. Departments (action) None

Treasurer's Report - included in Board Package **Motion to accept the March 14, 2025, Treasurers Report and place on file.** Moved by Tom Hardy. Second Pat Johnson Motion Approved as presented.

New Business: Annual Meeting -Motion to schedule the Annual Meeting on June 22, 2025.Moved by Tim Vander Haar. Second Shirley Albers Motion Approved as presented.

Motion to thank Nicolus Budimir's Sociology class for volunteering their help at our Saturday Morning Breakfasts and the Mobile Food Pantry. Motion approved as presented.

Adjourned 7:10 pm

**Next Meeting: April 21, 2025 6:30 pm**

## PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for February 2025

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2023-2024 YTD Budget	2023-2024 YTD Difference	2023-2024 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$13,352	\$194,712	\$245,690	\$ - 50,978	\$ 337,000
Non-pledged Offerings	\$1,110	\$12,509	21,851	\$ - 9,342	31,145
Misc. Income	300	82,018	56,750	25,269	59,450
Operating Income Endow.	10,000	45,370	45,370	\$ 0	85,570
<b>Total Op. Income</b>	<b>\$ 24,762</b>	<b>\$334,610</b>	<b>\$369,661</b>	<b>\$ - 35,051</b>	<b>\$ 513,164</b>
<b>Total Op. Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 38,585</b>	<b>\$325,366</b>	<b>\$ 340,011</b>	<b>\$ - 14,645</b>	<b>\$ 513,164</b>
<b>NET TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ - 13,823</b>	<b>\$ 9,244</b>	<b>\$ 29,649</b>	<b>\$ - 20,406</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

Expenses exceeded income for the month of February by \$13,823. Year-to-date, income exceeds expenses by \$9,244. As expected, we drew funds towards operations from Endowments for cash flow purposes. *(As of 3/06/2025, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)*

**Thermostat Endowment Funding Campaign: \$71,090 collected as of 02/28/2025.  
The goal is \$200,000.**

***Volunteers are welcome to meet every Wednesday at 9 am to help keep our church maintained. We then meet in the library for coffee and fellowship afterward. Contact Harley or Rick Brott with any questions.***

**Spring brings the Community Garden.  
We are looking for volunteers to help us out.  
Please contact a Missions and Service Department member  
Or the church office if you would like to help us out.**

**See you at our Easter Service  
We will have a great worship celebration.**

## Lectionary April, 2025

- TUE Apr 1** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; John 5:1-16
- WED Apr 2** Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30
- THU Apr 3** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-23; John 5:31-47
- FRI Apr 4** Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 *Apocrypha* Psalm 34:16-20, 22;  
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- SAT Apr 5** Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:1-2, 8-11; John 7:40-53
- SUN Apr 6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT Isaiah** 43:15-21; Psalm 126;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- MON Apr 7 The** Story of Susanna 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; *Daniel 13 in some versions*; Psalm 23; John 8:1-11
- TUE Apr 8** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:1-2, 15-20; John 8:21-30
- WED Apr 9** Daniel 3:14-20, 24-28; Song of the Three Young Men 29-33  
(*Daniel 3:52-56 in some versions*); John 8:31-42
- THU Apr 10 Genesis** 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-9; John 8:51-59
- FRI Apr 11 Jeremiah** 20:10-13; Psalm 18:1-6; John 10:31-41
- SAT Apr 12 Ezekial** 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56
- SUN Apr 13 Palm Sunday** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40
- MON Apr 14 Isaiah** 42:1-7; Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14; John 12:1-11
- TUE Apr 15 Isaiah** 49:1-6; Psalm 71:1-6, 15, 17; John 13:21-23, 36-38
- WED Apr 16 Isaiah** 50:4-9; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25
- THU Apr 17 Maundy Thursday** Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14.  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- FRI Apr 18 Good Friday** Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25.  
John 18:1-19:42
- SAT Apr 19** Job 14:1-4 *Or* Lamentations 3:1-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16.  
I Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66; *Or* John 19:38-42
- SUN Apr 20 EASTER** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1—18;  
John 20:
- MON Apr 21** Acts 2:14, 22-23; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Matthew 28:8-15
- TUE Apr 22** Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; John 20:11-18
- WED Apr 23** Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9; Luke 24:13-35
- THU Apr 24** Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:1, 4-8; Luke 24:35-48
- FRI Apr 25** Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; John 21:1-14
- SAT Apr 26** Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1, 14-21; Mark 16:9-15
- SUN Apr 27 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER** Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation  
1:4-8; John 20:19-31
- MON Apr 28** Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2:1-9; John 3:1-8
- TUE Apr 29** Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1-2, 5; John 3:7b-15
- WED Apr 30** Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:1-8; John 3:16-21