



Pilgrim Post

April Volume 26 issue 4

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

*Join us for our Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Service on
April 2 at 7:00 pm*

And

*Easter Service on Sunday,
April 5 at 10:30 am*

Easter Egg Hunt. Children nursery through 5th grade (and parents) are invited to the parlor immediately after the worship service for instructions. Visitors are welcome.



LETTER FROM REV. BRUCE

Sisters and Brothers of FCC,

As you all prepare for your next Sr. Minister, the staff and I are in the process of updating and/or creating protocols/policies that will assist her/him in a smooth transition.

Effective April 1, 2026, the following is the policy for Sunday Moment for Mission (MfM). Each MfM will have one (1) Sunday to make their verbal announcement at a Sunday service. This will be the last Sunday of the month. Therefore, the announcement made on the last Sunday of April for example, will be to inform the people of FCC about a mission event in May; May in June; and so on.

Additionally, according to FCC's Charter, all requests for financial assistance are to be reviewed and approved by the Finance Department; there is a yellow form in the office which must be filled out and either emailed (elisabethm@fccmuskegon.org) or delivered in person to Elisabeth Major, Business Administrator as part of the process.

We encourage you that on the same day as you share your MfM, you would have someone available after to the worship service who folks can connect with and, possibly, receive brochures or other printed information.

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.*

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship

Those whose last names begin with the letters K through N 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. Please indicate ingredients as we have many members who have allergies. Many thanks.

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.

Pilgrim Post

Are you on the email list to receive our Pilgrim Post? Just let the office know you would like to be emailed with a pdf copy. You can also email the office at: fcc@fccmuskegon.org



April Birthdays

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

What's Happening

Women's Single Group

We will meet for lunch on Tuesday, April 7th at the Village Baker in Spring Lake. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy D. at 734-478-3716. Newcomers are welcome.

GSA

The Westshore GSA (Genders, Sexualities Alliance) youth group that is being supported by the church and community is thriving. Our Westshore GSA meetings are held on Mondays, at 7 pm. All are welcome! Follow us @westshore.gsa on Facebook and Instagram.

Tuesday Pantry

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 help some other way, we are collecting canned goods on Communion Sundays (first Sunday of each month). Just put them in the baskets in the Narthex. Many thanks!

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 at 231-740-1140 or just show up at 8:30 am if you are willing to volunteer. "Cowboy" offers a Worship Service in our Chapel following the breakfast for any who would like to attend.

Saturday Garden

Bike Clinic will be held April 11 from 9 till noon at the garden.

Saturday Garden project has officially been selected as part of Day of Caring 2026 on Friday, April 24. Congratulations! We're grateful for the opportunity to partner with you and bring volunteers alongside your work in a meaningful way. Sign up and volunteer with us on this special day as we work together with Community Engagement.

Paint Class! Join us Wednesday April 15 at 1:00 pm in our decorating room in lower level. For questions, and a material list, please contact Nancy Doctor or Barb Kartes.

Wednesday 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.

3 C's Exercise continues every Wednesday at 9:00 am. \$3 per class in Fellowship Hall.

Eurythmy - For Individual and Community Well-being Restorative Movement classes for body and soul beginning Tuesday, April 7, 2026 from 4:30 to 5:30 (once a week)

Build vitality and connection through mindful, low stress, fluid gestures. Wear loose clothing and soft soled shoes. April 7, 2026, in the lower-level Activity Room. Suggested donation: \$10 each class. Barbara Bresette-Mills, Eurythmy therapist and educator will run the classes. Please contact her at 512-417-4968 with questions.

Exercise Drumming Class continues on Thursdays at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Missions & Service News

We continue to feed our community by providing a Tuesday Food Pantry, a Saturday Breakfast, and a monthly Mobile Food Pantry.

FCC Volunteer Opportunity to help solve hunger & poverty in Muskegon County:

Collect supplies from Love It Again (Sherman Blvd). Deliver to FCC Pantry each week or once a month. Time commitment is 90 minutes. Place frozen foods & breads in FCC pantry freezer. Other supplies will be put on carts and then rotated onto pantry shelves by volunteers. Our neighbors-in-need are counseled by Love INC, who provides us with free staples through the *Meijer Simply Give* program. Contact Joe Singerling 730-3202 for more details."

Christian Education Department News:

Easter Egg Hunt. *Children nursery through 5th grade (and parents) are invited to the parlor immediately after the worship service for instructions. Visitors are welcome. Please bring a bag or basket (we will have extras just in case.)*

Cowboy's 2-part series about the homeless situation in Muskegon generated an important discussion about tangible steps this congregation can take to help address the issue. One idea that gained traction was to assemble personal care packages for homeless people. Recognizing that our greatest impact might be to support what others are already doing, a small team has explored that question. In addition, Cowboy's service club at MCC has undertaken the creation of a more thorough list of related efforts in our area. (Go, Cowboy!)

In the meantime, creating care packages and making them available at our Saturday Breakfast and Food Pantry events seems to be a manageable project that addresses a genuine need. We simply need someone to lead the effort, a couple volunteers to approach local businesses (Meijer, Walmart, hotels, etc.) for donated materials, and a few people to assemble the bags. As soon as someone steps forward to lead the effort it's a go. If you are willing, please contact Judy DeWall at judydewall0510@gmail.com.

Cowboy's sessions also generated suggestions that any of us can pursue immediately: Above all, rather than turn away from or 'look through 'a homeless person, strive to actually see them. Appreciate that they have a full set of hopes and dreams and memories and fears that is analogous to your own. There is still a child buried somewhere in there, just as there is in you. And treat them accordingly.

You can also support one of these already-established programs:

- Andrea Gagnon has single-handedly organized overnight shelter (at Covenant Community Church), showers (at Planet Fitness), and meals (at CCC) for as many as she could reach. She has now partnered with Shoreline Community Lions for their organizational support and 501c3 status.

Andrea Gagnon: 616-638-4036 Her [Venmo link](#) Her [Facebook page](#)
Link to Lion's [Love Community Garden](#) page

- Muskegon Giving Table (warm clothing, hygiene supplies)

Tatum Smillie: smillie.girl82@gmail.com [Giving Table Facebook page](#)

- Our own FCC Food Pantry — Collect supplies from "Love It Again" and deliver to church. Either weekly or monthly, 90 minutes each time. Contact Joe Singerling, 730-3202.

We'll see how we are led from here. If any of us are helping — or if you know you want to do more — please share that information through The Pilgrim Post at fcc@fccmuskegon.org, or the FCC website by submitting it to Elisabeth Major- ElisabethM@fccmuskegon.org
Submitted by Steve Chapman, CE Chair.

12	"Tour of the Organ"	[in sanctuary]	
19	The Challenge of Taking a Stand (with a focus on Christian Nationalism)	Video/Discussion	Paul Krause et.al.
26	The Challenge of Taking a Stand (with a focus on Christian Nationalism) - pt. 2	Video/Discussion	Paul Krause et.al.

Member Care Dept. & Congregational Life Dept.

We would like to invite members and regular church attendees to have their picture taken and placed on our Picture Board. This is free. All you have to do is come to Fellowship Hall after church service and we will take your picture. We hope to be finished in early May.

Congregational life will be sponsoring table decorations again on May 10th in the parish Hall in celebration of Music appreciation Sunday as well as Mother's Day. We again need around 10 people to sign up and we will decorate the tables between 9-9:30 Sunday Morning May 10. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome desk. Themes for decorations should involve Music and Mother's Day.

<p>Minutes of Governing Board Monday, March 16, 2026</p>

Call to order 6:30 pm by President Clingman-Scott

Opening prayer by Rev Mulder.

A motion was moved by Tom Linacre to approve the March 16, 2026 Governing Board Agenda. Motion was seconded by Hal Rummery as amended: additional items from Member Care and Jefferson Towers.

A motion was moved by Sue Rummery and seconded by Rick Brott to approve February 16, 2026 minutes as amended: Remove the X by Trina's name and put an X by Sue Rummery's name as approval of member.

Treasurer's Report: Income for operations exceeded expenses by \$32,508 for the month of February. We finished the month of January with the bottom line at \$25,905 below budget expectations. We are grateful for the generous gifts given towards your pledged offerings, which meant we did not need to move additional funds into operations for cash flow in February. This allows us to keep more of our Endowment funds invested and earning dividends. Thank you!

Motion to accept the February 2026 Treasurer's Report and place on file. Moved by: Deb Collett
Second: Sue Rummery. Motion Approved.

Unfinished Business Motion to approve appointment of Barb Brott to the Jefferson Towers Board of Directors Moved by: Rick Brott Second: Sue Rummery Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 pm

Submitted by Jim Perreault, Clerk

PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for February 2026

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2024-2025 YTD Budget	2024-2025 YTD Difference	2024-2025 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$33,242	\$235,762	\$249,227	\$ - 13,465	\$ 341,440
Non-pledged Offerings	\$1,805	\$12,432	21,600	\$ - 9,168	30,773
Misc. Income	\$39,739	71,979	78,336	\$ - 6,357	87,115
Operating Income Endow.	0	32,500	38,500	\$ - 6,000	80,000
Total Op. Income	\$ 74,786	\$ 352,673	\$ 387,663	\$ - 34,990	\$ 539,328
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 42,277	\$ 349,399	\$ 358,484	\$ - 9,085	\$ 539,328
NET TOTAL:	\$ 32,508	\$ 3,274	\$ 29,179	\$ - 25,905	0

Income for operations exceeded expenses by \$32,508 for the month of February. We finished the month of January with the bottom line at \$25,905 below budget expectations. We are grateful for the generous gifts given towards your pledged offerings, which meant we did not need to move additional funds into operations for cash flow in February. This allows us to keep more of our Endowment funds invested and earning dividends. Thank you!

Gifts receipt - In February we received gifts of \$35,900 from the Bob & Harriett Walsh Fund, \$2,112 from the Busker Family Fund, and \$ 1,300 from the Robert & Ruth Wheaton Designated Fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. The Walsh and Busker funds were deposited as miscellaneous income in our general operating account, and the Wheaton gift was deposited in the Miscellaneous Building & Grounds Designated account, per the donors' instructions.

February also saw some gifts for FCC's Food Pantry and Saturday Breakfast programs, donations for our GSA Youth Group's lock-in, the music program, and gifts designated specifically for flowers and landscaping in memory of Frank Sundquist.

(As of 03/10/2026, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)

Our goal is to communicate to the FCC Family accurately. To that end, beginning January 1, 2026, these new guidelines go in effect. For printed announcements in Sunday's bulletin requests are to be made to either the Pastor or the Office Manager by Monday at 1 PM.

For an announcement in the weekly email requests are to be made to the Director of Music by Wednesday at 6 PM.

For verbal announcements on Sunday morning requests are to be made to the Pastor by Thursday at 5 PM.

For an announcement in the Pilgrim Post monthly newsletter all requests are to be made to the Office Manager by the 3rd Wednesday of the prior month at noon (May. Post due Apr. 22).

April Lectionary

- WED Apr 01 Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25
- THU Apr 02 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 03 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:1; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
- SAT Apr 04 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 05 EASTER Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
I Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Matthew 28:1-10
- MON Apr 06 Acts 2:14, 22-23; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Matthew 28:8-15
- TUE Apr 07 Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; John 20:11-18
- WED Apr 08 Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9; Luke 24:13-35
- THU Apr 09 Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:1, 4-8; Luke 24:35-48
- FRI Apr 10 Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; John 21:1-14
- SAT Apr 11 Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1, 14-21; Mark 16:9-15
- SUN Apr 12 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 161; Peter 1:3-9;
John 20:19-31
- MON Apr 13 Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2:1-9; John 3:1-8
- TUE Apr 14 Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1-2, 5; John 3:7b-15
- WED Apr 15 Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:1-8; John 3:16-21
- THU Apr 16 Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34:1, 8, 16-19; John 3:31-36
- FRI Apr 17 Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15
- SAT Apr 18 Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, 22; John 6:16-21
- SUN Apr 19 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-25
- MON Apr 20 Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; John 6:22-29
- TUE Apr 21 Acts 7:51-8:1a; Psalm 31:2-3, 5-7, 16, 20; John 6:30-35
- WED Apr 22 Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 66:1-7; John 6:35-40
- THU Apr 23 Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51
- FRI Apr 24 Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117; John 6:52-59
- SAT Apr 25 Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 116:12-17; John 6:60-69
- SUN Apr 26 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25;
John 10:1-10
- MON Apr 27 Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42:1-2; 43:3-4; John 10:11-18
- TUE Apr 28 Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1-7; John 10:22-30
- WED Apr 29 Acts 12:24-13:5; Psalm 67:1-7; John 12:44-50
- THU Apr 30 Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89:1-2, 20-21, 24, 26; John 13:16-20