



Pilgrim Post

April Volume 24 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.



Hallelujah

Our God

Reigns

Rev. Tim's Letter

Dear Friends,

What a busy month we have just completed, starting with Jazz Sunday, and the very special presentation about Sorority, Equality, and LiberTea, then the St. Paddy's day talent show, and palm Sunday and all the Holy Week specials! A big thank you to our talent stars, to the food preparers for our special coffee house, sound techs and musicians who kept this all rolling along.

This congregation is near and dear to my heart for so many reasons I could go on and on talking about all that I have learned from you. I mention that because I feel the need to talk publicly about something that has been bubbling around a bit for a while now. And that is the question, "When's that old guy going to retire?"

After some consultation with the Michigan Conference and our Executive Committee and Governing Board it seemed good to set an actual date, soon enough that it lights a fire under us to do the work of visioning that's needed but far enough down the road that we have time to do it right. In that spirit, I have proposed bringing my time here to an end in August of 2025. God willing we have a little time to prepare and say our good-byes. I am committed to doing what I can to make this transition a productive time of preparation for whatever God has in store for this wonderful congregation for years to come. We have been blessed by the incredible legacy of our past, may we together leave a strong foundation for what comes next.

Asking for your prayers and your participation as we face the future together, and apart.

Grace to you 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.

Church Directory

Member Care will be printing an updated Directory in May with addresses, phone numbers, and emails phones, and any new marriages). Please contact the church office via email or phone with any new updates. This is a great way to stay connected.

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

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.

April Birthdays

01	Don Pimley	18	Burt Apple; Kurtis Lowe
02	Ann Vanderlaan	19	Patty Kelly
03	Ava Crago; Kim Kitchen	20	Sue Emmons; Pat Hunt
04	Abby Keesen	21	Trent Sanden
05	Carson Doctor	22	Neil Hoekstra; Brian Shattuck
06	Alden Crago	23	Carter Perreault
09	Ted Mauseh; Fred Sanderlin	24	Jessica Lawton
10	Dennis Emmons; Barb Lahnala	25	Eleanor Wiles
13	Mark Bigelow; Carolyn Spink	26	Beth Carrozza; Doris Mixer (100)
14	Dan Kislov; Kathleen Morgan	28	Sheryl Abdelkader
15	Gary Beatty; Marc Carrozza	29	Michelle Bullion; Jason Crago
16	Patty Abdelkader		
17	Cathy Saunders		



What's Happening

FCC Women's Single Group

Singles Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 1:00 pm at Lefty and Romos"11985 Holton Rd, North Muskegon. Call Judy Dewall 734-478-3716 for reservations or sign up at the Welcome Center.

GSA

GSA meets every Monday night here at FCC from 7 to 8 pm.

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 volunteer, please contact Shirley Lawton or call the church office. If you would like to help I some other way, we are collecting canned goods on Communion Sundays. Just put them in the baskets in the Narthex. Many thanks!

Mobile Food Pantry

Saturday, April 6th in FCC Parking Lot at 10:00 am

Saturday Breakfast

The last Saturday of each month we hold a Saturday Breakfast which is open to the community. The Breakfast on April 27, 2024 is from 9-10:30 am and is free to all. Please contact Donna Lachniet if you are willing to volunteer.

No Name Group

We're Back!

We will meet at Red Wok on E. Sherman Blvd
(In front of Sam's Club and Choice Hotel)

Thursday, April 11 at 5:30 pm.
Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the office.
Host is Joe Singerling

Let's Make A Mess Acrylic Paint Class

Our next paint class will be Wednesday, **April 24 at 1:00 pm** at FCC. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Barb Kartes or Nancy Doctor.

Wednesday Morning Volunteers

We invite you to join us Wednesday mornings for outside and inside projects around the church. We meet from 9:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m. then have coffee and donuts in the Library for a bit of social time. Come check us out!

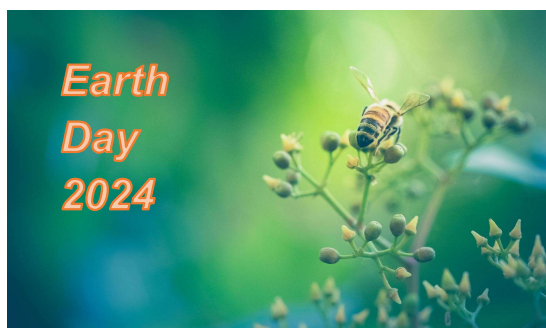
DID YOU KNOW?

Reducing our Carbon Footprint
How FCC is working for our planet

We: recycle paper, cardboard, and plastic (including plastic bags)
have installed a new HVAC system
continue to replace bulbs with LED lights
have updated our sprinkling system to be more "green"
recycle our printer ink
reuse and recycle many items used to decorate our church (our
Visual Enhancement Team)
compost our yard waste
will be updating our outdoor power tools from gas to battery
use sustainable gardening practices in our Community Garden

As Earth Day 2024 approaches (April 22) we would like to begin a battery recycling program. Look for the new container by the Welcome Center and add your batteries to be recycled. Together, let's continue our stewardship of God's creation!

Donna Hood and FCC Outreach Task Force



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2024

Governing Board meeting was called to order by President Eddie Jankowski at 6:31 p.m.

Shirley Albers opened with prayer.

Agenda was approved. Consent Agenda was approved MINUS Christian Education, Congregational Life Departments, Finance Committee, and Building and Grounds Department.

- a. Christian Education: Patty Kelly explained the CE has tabled "Fire Drill" implementation because the general safety of all people using our building needs to be addressed by more than CE. Building and Grounds was directed to continue work begun by Robin Murphy in mapping and signage that promotes safety on 3 levels with diverse programs and participant ages and abilities. Patty will share with B&G sample safety plans developed for school settings.
- b. A motion was made and approved to appoint Deb Witmer to Congregational Life Department.
- c. Finance Committee: Correction of "Preliminary Monthly Financial Report for January 2024 will be replaced with the following paragraph as recorded in "Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting 2/15/24:

Income exceeded expenses for the month of January by \$11,441. Gifts received in January included \$29,080 from the Walsh Fund, and \$1079 from the Busker Family Fund, which were deposited to Miscellaneous Income. A gift was received from the Wheaton Designated Fund in the amount of \$1,090 for use by Building and Grounds.

President's Report: Eddie thanked Melissa Wikman for chairing last month's meeting in his absence. He also extended special thanks to Sue Vander Haar for her work with the St. Patrick's Day Talent Show and refreshments. Roy and Britta Portenga were also given credit for their prominent role in entertaining the full Fellowship Hall. Personnel and Nominating Committees have not yet been convened.

Minister's Report: In Rev. Vander Har's absence (member's memorial service in Kalamazoo), Eddie informed the board that FCC's Senior Minister Tim Vander Haar plans to retire in August of 2025 while celebrating 20 years of service at First Congregational Church.

Clerk's Report:

- a. Note that the Consent Agenda explanation on the Governing Board Draft Agenda for March 18 has been modified.
- b. Some typographical mistakes on Jan. 22 Gov. Bd. minutes are corrected in bold type under 4.c. in these March 18 minutes. Als Convening of Nominating Committee was inadvertently not included as a New business agenda item at the January meeting.
- c. "Outreach Task Force Notes for February 25, 2024

Governing Board Meeting will be held Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.in the church parlor.

PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for February 2024

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2023-2024 YTD Budget	2023-2024 YTD Difference	2023-2024 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$16,364	\$199,554	\$ 219,400	\$ - 19,846	\$ 320,000
Non-pledged Offerings	\$2,742	\$16,514	21,851	\$ - 5,337	31,145
Misc. Income	950	51,889	50,917	973	52,867
Operating Income Endow.	10,000	50,607	55,055	-4,448	95,056
Total Op. Income	\$ 30,056	\$318,564	\$ 347,223	\$ - 28,659	\$ 499,067
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 39,397	\$319,311	\$ 326,766	\$ - 7,454	\$ 499,067
NET TOTAL:	\$ - 9,341	\$ - 747	\$ 20,457	\$ - 21,204	0

Expenses exceeded income for the month of February by \$9,341. Year-to-date, we have drawn less from Endowment funds for use in operations than budgeted expectations. Actual income and expenses both remain below budget expectations. Since income is much farther below budget expectations than expenses are, the net total/bottom line position is \$21,204 less than where we expected it to be at the close of February.

Outside of our Operating Budget, this fiscal year-to-date we have collected \$67,771 in restricted income and have spent \$236,575 of those restricted funds.

(As of 3/11/2024, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)

CIVIC THEATER

Once again this spring, FCC will host the musical rehearsals for Muskegon Civic Theater's May production. MCT's residency will begin on **Monday, April 1** and continue through the end of the month (Mondays through Thursdays).

April departments/committees scheduled in the evenings will hold their meetings in the Parlor or as directed by their chairpersons.

Thank you for your support and patience with scheduling. We are very pleased to be a vital part of Muskegon's artistic community!

Muskegon Cooperating Churches are offering "Peaceful Response To

Violence training at FCC On April 13, 2024.

Please contact office.mccc@frontier.com for more information.

April 2024 Lectionary

MON Apr 01	Acts 2:14, 22-23; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Matthew 28:8-15
TUE Apr 02	Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; John 20:11-18
WED Apr 03	Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9; Luke 24:13-35
THU Apr 04	Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:1, 4-8; Luke 24:35-48
FRI Apr 05	Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; John 21:1-14
SAT Apr 06	Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1, 14-21; Mark 16:9-15
SUN Apr 07	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
MON Apr 08	Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2:1-9; John 3:1-8
TUE Apr 09	Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1-2, 5; John 3:7b-15
WED Apr 10	Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:1-8; John 3:16-21
THU Apr 11	Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34:1, 8, 16-19; John 3:31-36
FRI Apr 12	Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15
SAT Apr 13	Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, 22; John 6:16-21
SUN Apr 14	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4 I John 3:1-7; Luke 4:36b-48
MON Apr 15	Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; John 6:22-29
TUE Apr 16	Acts 7:51-8:1a; Psalm 31:2-3, 5-7, 16, 20; John 6:30-35
WED Apr 17	Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 66:1-7; John 6:35-40
THU Apr 18	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51
FRI Apr 19	Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117; John 6:52-59
SAT Apr 20	Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 116:12-17; John 6:60-69
SUN Apr 21	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23 I John 3:11-18; John 10:11-18
MON Apr 22	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42:1-2; 43:3-4; John 10:11-18
TUE Apr 23	Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1-7; John 10:22-30
WED Apr 24	Acts 12:24-13:5; Psalm 67:1-7; John 12:44-50
THU Apr 25	Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89:1-2, 20-21, 24, 26; John 13:16-20
FRI Apr 26	Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-11; John 14:1-6
SAT Apr 27	Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98:1-4; John 14:7-14
SUN Apr 28	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; I John 4:17-21; John 15:1-8
MON Apr 29	Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-4, 15-16; John 14:21-26
TUE Apr 30	Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-13a, 21; John 14:27-31a