



# Pilgrim Post

May Volume 26 issue 5

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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.*



***Making Wonderful Music!***

***Thank you to:***

***Our Motet and Bell Choirs***

***Dr. Michael Match, Music Director***

***John Mattson, Organist***

***We appreciate the time, talents,  
and dedication you all devote to  
First Congregational Church.***

## **Ministerial Search Update**

*We're grateful to share that the ministerial search process is moving forward in a thoughtful and encouraging way. Over the past several weeks, the search team has conducted a number of initial interviews and has invited a smaller group of candidates into a second round of conversations.*

*We are engaging deeply with each candidate, taking time to listen, learn, and discern who might be the best fit for our congregation and community. This stage of the process involves more in-depth conversations and opportunities for mutual exploration.*

*We are encouraged by the strength and diversity of the candidates we've met and feel confident that the process is progressing well. As always, we are committed to maintaining appropriate confidentiality for those in discernment.*

*Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and trust in this process. We will share further updates as we are able.*

*Search and Call Committee*

## **FCC Prayer Connection**

***If you have a concern or joy that you would like prayers for, please email our Prayer Connection at: [FCCPrayerConnection@gmail.com](mailto:FCCPrayerConnection@gmail.com).***

***Your request will be forwarded to all that have requested to receive the prayer concerns. If you would like to receive the prayer concerns, please go through the above email and request to be added to the list.***

***Please let us know if you do not want it published on our public website and Pilgrim Post.***

***We are asking that information given in our public prayers be limited to very generic statements.***

# **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.*

## **Our Sympathy and Prayers:**

To Barb Duffey and family on the passing of her husband, Donald L. Duffey who passed away on Monday, April 13, 2026 at the age of 72. Don and Barb became members of FCC in 2010. He had will be remembered for his warmth, creativity, sense of humor, and his deep love for his family. His Celebration of Life will be held on May 23, 2026 at Bella Maria's. Visitation will be from 4:00 – 6:00 with a memory sharing service to follow.

To Rev. Bruce and Jean Mulder on the passing of Bruce's mother, April 29, 2026.

## **Cookies for Sunday Fellowship**

Those whose last names begin with the letters O through S please bring cookies or treats during the month of May. 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. 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.



## ***May Birthdays***

02 Lee Treptow  
03 Charlotte Chessman; Pam  
Garabedian; Jonathan Krause  
05 Jeff Leinicke  
06 Susan Mulvey; Robin Murphy  
07 Asa Orion  
08 Dave Schultheiss  
10 Sue Vander Haar; Collin Doctor;  
11 Alissa Mack  
12 Eric Portenga  
13 Christen Twining  
14 Nick Singerling  
15 Mary Bown  
16 Fox Garabedian

17 Aidan Perreault; Melissa Stark  
19 Diane Goodman  
20 Lora Swenson; Jamal Abdelkader;  
Dale Brinks  
22 Stacy Chambers  
24 Bill Eyke; Rob Ginman  
25 Sharon Miller  
26 Brian Krause; Richard Inbody  
28 Alyssa Simmons  
29 Mary Williams  
30 Casey Cress; Don McEwen

## ***What's Happening***

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

We will meet for lunch on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Hobo's. 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 May 30**

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**

We are underway for the season! Please consider volunteering. We are at the Saturday Breakfast Garden, 1218 Jefferson: Tuesday's 1-3, Saturdays 9-3: planting, watering, helping with our Love INC classes and could use your help. This is also a great family time.

Saturday Day Garden Bike Clinic will be held May 9 from 9 till noon at the garden. Our next clinic will be June 13.

**Paint Class!** Join us Wednesday May 20 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** will not be held May 12, but will be back on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

### **Love INC Results**

In the 1st quarter of 2026, Love INC counseled 2,651 FCC neighbors-in-need. Many received services for the first time: 1192 served at food pantries; 41 received refurbished appliances; 16 families received emergency financial support; 2 received furniture; 4 received bicycles; 47 got household supplies; 441 received clothing; 2 had wheelchair ramps installed; 805 obtained personal care items; and 101 acquired baby items.

### **Christian Education Department News:**

**Life-long Learning — This Sunday (May 3)** we will decide which group initiative to undertake to help counter the local impact of Christian Nationalism. **Next week (May 10, Mothers Day)** we will not meet. **On May 17** we will select a more relaxed format for continuing our topical discussions over the summer. (First up is to continue with “If the Church Were Christian.”) These two strands — active community involvement, and discussions of spiritual topics — will then continue in parallel, but their meeting schedules will not compete.

If you would like more detailed information but you think you’re not on the Life-long Learning Mailing List, please message Steve Chapman at 931-239-3017.

**Christian Education Vacation Bible School** will be held July 20-24 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Come to the Wild West Adventure Vacation Bible School. We are rounding up all preschool-Middle School Students.

### **Congregational Life Dept.**

In honor of Mother's Day and Music Appreciation - All "Youngsters" and "Oldsters" are welcome to enjoy a reading (15 - 20 minutes) of a favorite book by a guest reader in the Parlor after the coffee hour gathering. Enjoy your coffee and cake while you admire the table settings. An announcement will be given to let you know when to gather in the Parlor. It will be music to your ears!

## **Thank you**

A huge thank you to Hal and Sue Rummery for disposing a trailer full of broken items for us.



**Minutes of Governing Board**  
**Monday, April 20, 2026 6:00 pm**

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Meeting was called to order 6:00 pm by President Clingman-Scott.

An opening prayer was given.

A motion was moved by Deb Collett and Seconded by Tom Linacre to approve April 20, 2026 Governing Board Agenda. Motion was approved as presented.

A motion was moved by Bonnie Lipan to approve the March 16, 2026 Governing Board Minutes. Motion was seconded by Tom Linacre. Motion was approved as presented.

**President's Report:** Pursuant to the Interim Ministry Covenant Rev. Bruce Mulder, and the First Congregational Church of Muskegon, MI, in effect beginning 09/22/2025 and relative to the clause:

Duration, Renewal, and Termination

This covenant is initially in effect for six months and is renewable in one month increments, as appropriate and agreeable to both parties.

And recognize the rights of an at will employee to terminate the covenant with a thirty day notice.

It is moved that the Interim Ministry Covenant may be extended on a month by month basis until September 1, 2026. Motion was moved by Jim Perreault and seconded by Melissa Wikman. Motion was approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** expenses exceeded income for operations by \$3,503 for the month of March. We finished the month of March with the bottom line at \$20, 036 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 again in March. This allows us to keep more of our Endowment funds invested and earning dividends. Motion to accept the March 2026 Treasurer's Report and place on file. Moved by: Deb Collett Second: Sue Rummery. Motion Approved.

**Motion:** FCC Finance & Endowment Department recommends that the Governing approve revisions to the existing Purchase Policy of 4/11/2019 to increase the threshold from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for purchases requiring Finance Department approval and multiple bids, and to reduce the number of required bids from 3 to 2. Motion moved by Tom Linacre and seconded by Steve Chapman. Motion approved as presented.

New Business: Review and Presentation of Standard Operation Policy and Procedure

Motion was moved by Meliss Wikman to accept the Standard Operating Procedure, and policies contained within, as presented and revised at this meeting. Motion was seconded by Tom Linacre. Motion approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Submitted by Jim Perreault, Clerk

## PRELIMINARY MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT for March 2026

	Current Month Actual	Current YTD Actual	2025-2026 YTD Budget	2025-2026 YTD Difference	2025-2026 Annual Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$35,631	\$271,393	\$267,133	\$ 4,260	\$ 341,440
Non-pledged Offerings	\$2,487	\$14,920	24,551	\$ - 9,631	30,773
Misc. Income	\$1,550	72,529	80,534	\$ - 8,005	87,115
Operating Income Endow.	0	32,500	48,500	\$ - 16,000	80,000
<b>Total Op. Income</b>	<b>\$ 39,669</b>	<b>\$ 391,342</b>	<b>\$ 420,718</b>	<b>\$ - 29,376</b>	<b>\$ 539,328</b>
<b>Total Op. Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 43,171</b>	<b>\$ 392,570</b>	<b>\$ 401,910</b>	<b>\$ - 9,340</b>	<b>\$ 539,328</b>
<b>NET TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ - 3,503</b>	<b>\$ - 1,228</b>	<b>\$ 18,808</b>	<b>\$ - 20,036</b>	<b>0</b>

Expenses exceeded income for operations by \$3,503 for the month of March. We finished the month of March with the bottom line at \$20,036 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 again in March. This allows us to keep more of our Endowment funds invested and earning dividends. Thank you!

Gifts receipt - In March we received gifts of \$1,000 for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, \$179.50 for FCC's Food Pantries, \$90 for the Saturday Breakfast Garden, and \$1,517 for our Saturday Breakfast program, which included \$1,200 from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County's Anacker Fund. There were also contributions to our Worship & Music Designated Fund as well as our Miscellaneous B&G and Building Use Designated Funds.

Of note, there was a contribution of \$100 towards our Thermostat Campaign and \$370 towards the March Mission of the Month.

*(As of 04/08/2026, Deb Collett, Treasurer - ejm)*

**Thermostat Endowment Funding Campaign: A March contribution of \$100 brings us to a total of \$76,810 collected as of 03/31/2026. The goal is \$200,000 by October of 2028.**

**The Missions and Service Department is grateful for your generous support for the March Mission of the Month, Muskegon County Cooperating Churches' Peace Team Training. A total of \$370 was collected, and at their April meeting the department voted to supplement that gift for a total of \$600. Thank you!**



### **Congratulations Graduates**

We would love to acknowledge your achievements in our June Pilgrim Post. Please let the office know if you have any graduates this year from High School or College, Masters or Doctorates. We would like the name, where they graduated, if grandchild, who the grandparents and parents are, etc.

Email the information to: [fccmuskegon.org](http://fccmuskegon.org) or contact the office at 231.726-3254. We would need the information by May20th.

# May Lectionary

<b>FRI May 01</b>	Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-11; John 14:1-6
<b>SAT May 02</b>	Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98:1-4; John 14:7-14
<b>SUN May 03</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
<b>MON May 04</b>	Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-4, 15-16; John 14:21-26
<b>TUE May 05</b>	Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-13a, 21; John 14:27-31a
<b>WED May 06</b>	Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-5; John 15:1-8
<b>THU May 07</b>	Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-3, 10; John 15:9-11
<b>FRI May 08</b>	Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:7-11; John 15:12-17
<b>SAT May 09</b>	Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1-3, 5; John 15:18-21
<b>SUN May 10</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20 I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
<b>MON May 11</b>	Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149:1-6, 9; John 15:26-16:4
<b>TUE May 12</b>	Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-3, 7-8; John 16:5-11
<b>WED May 13</b>	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14; John 16:12-15
<b>THU May 14</b>	Acts 18:1-8; Psalm 98:1-4; John 16:16-20; <i>Or</i> ASCENSION DAY Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 <i>or</i> 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
<b>FRI May 15</b>	Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 47:1-6; John 16:20-23
<b>SAT May 16</b>	Acts 18:23-28; Psalm 47:1-2, 7-9; John 16:23-28
<b>SUN May 17</b>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; I Peter 4:12-14; John 17:1-11
<b>MON May 18</b>	Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:1-6, 32; John 16:29-33
<b>TUE May 19</b>	Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:9-10, 19-20, 32; John 17:1-11
<b>WED May 20</b>	Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:32, 28-29, 32-35; John 17:11-19
<b>THU May 21</b>	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; John 17:20-26
<b>FRI May 22</b>	Acts 25:13-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20; John 21:15-19
<b>SAT May 23</b>	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5, 7; John 21:20-25
<b>SUN May 24</b>	<b>PENTECOST</b> Acts 2:1-21 <i>or</i> Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; I Corinthians 12:3b-13 <i>or</i> Acts 2:1-21; John 20:10-23 <i>or</i> John 7:37-39
<b>MON May 25</b>	I Kings 17:1-6; Psalm 121:1-9; Matthew 5:1-12
<b>TUE May 26</b>	I Kings 17:7-16; Psalm 4:1-4, 6-7; Matthew 5:13-16
<b>WED May 27</b>	I Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 16:1-2, 4-5, 8, 11; Matthew 5:17-19
<b>THU May 28</b>	I Kings 18:41-46; Psalm 65:1-5, 12; Matthew 5:20-26
<b>FRI May 29</b>	I Kings 19:9, 11-16; Psalm 27:7-9, 13-14; Matthew 5:27-32
<b>SAT May 30</b>	I Kings 19:19-21; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-10; Matthew 5:33-37
<b>SUN May 31</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; II Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20