

July 2024

# Lakeshore Congregationalist

A monthly publication of the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, est. 1860



## From the Pastor's Desk

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4: 6-7

The boxes are starting to pile up in the Terlouw house! In just a couple of weeks we will be moving into our new abode about a mile down the road, a place we are hoping will be our "long-haul" home. We have a mountain of cardboard boxes stacked in the corner of the living room reminding me of "The Crag" from Nickelodeon's Guts (a show that was all the rage for us 90s kids).

Tim and I are all excited about the big move! The only one not pleased is... the dog, Brewster. Brewster seems pretty stressed by all the boxes and totes, packing tape and bare shelves. Every time I clean out a cupboard, he will be nearby looking on with his sad puppy eyes, trembling with nerves. Poor guy. He has taken to acting like a magpie most evenings. He will swipe stuff off counters, out of laundry baskets and boxes and hide them under his bed. I think it's half an attempt to get our attention, and half just trying to hang on to what's familiar before I box it up.

It must be frightening for him. Change. Maybe a little fear of being left behind. Little does he know the new house is ideal for tennis ball throwing and has a big field behind it for running in!

Brewster's magpie ways over the last couple of weeks, has reminded me of the modern mainline Protestant Church. The world is quickly shifting and evolving around us, and Christians everywhere are a little worried about being left behind. So we cling to what is comfortable and known. Beautiful old hymn, stately organized pews, little plastic communion cups. They feel good and right and rooted in a cranky changeful world.

Like Brewster, we see the world changing around us, with no possible way to comprehend where we are going and whether or not we are invited along for the ride! And yet, the road before us (however unfamiliar) is full of possibilities.

In Philippians 4 we are coached to not let anxiety get too firm a hold on us. We are told that when worries come our way, our Lord is ready to hear our prayers and hear the heaviness of our hearts. Philippians reminds us that we are grounded in Christ and the peace of God.

Uncertainties, challenges and frustrations come our way every day, but we can deal with them because we are rooted in Jesus.

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...And much more!



## From the Pastor's Desk, Continued...

For a church movement, it's good to be reminded that we don't have to cling to the little sentimental things (hymnals and pews...however lovely) during changing times, because we are in the Spirit. God has such amazing plan for all of us! What they are? I have no idea! But as Romans tells us: "God works for the good of those who love him." (Romans 8:28). May we be at peace in the Lord during these fast moving times! May we be confident that the Spirit will bring us along to a glorious future!

All together in Christ,  
Pastor Sarah

## Missions

Submitted by Kristyn Boyce & Pastor Sarah

We collected 51 boxes of cereal for Christian Neighbors. Thank you all for donating! Coming up on **July 14th**, we will have our **Noisy Offering** for Seafarer's Friend. Be sure to continue setting your change aside to bring in that Sunday!

Our summer Missions Partnership is Seafarers Friend! Seafarer's Friend has been tending to the spiritual needs of the maritime community since 1827! When merchant sailors or commercial fishing workers come to port in Boston (and in other locations throughout New England), Seafarer's Friend chaplains and volunteers are there to meet them. They visit seafarers aboard the ships, host them at their office where they can clean themselves up, contact their families, and get connected with resources that they need.

Volunteers help provide transportation to shopping centers, boarding houses and recreational activities while seafarers are in port. Seafarer's Friend also helps advocate for safe working conditions aboard ships, and for seafarers' health and living conditions in port and out to sea.

Seafarer's Friend is a long standing ministry partner within the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Also, everyone is invited to bring in toiletry items to fill care packages - Ditty Bags - which will be assembled on **July 24th, 12pm** by the Women's Fellowship and the Cub Scouts.

In early August, our Ditty Bags will catch a ride out to New England with students attending the Boston Seminar (an educational program put on by the NACCC) and then delivered to the Seafarer's Friend office in Boston.

## Ditty Bag Items Needed

Playing Cards	Razors
Deodorant	Toothpaste
Nail Clippers	Pens/Pencils
Socks	Floss
Shave Cream/Gel	Travel Size Kleenex
Toothbrush	Shoelaces
Mending Kits	Travel Size First Aid Kits
Shampoo (8oz Bottle Size)	Small Writing Pads
Soap/Body Wash (8oz Bottle Size)	Knit Hats
Puzzle Books	

## Ways to Worship

### Each Sunday at 10am.

You are invited to worship with us in person, or online via our Facebook livestream. The video of our worship service is also uploaded every week to our church's YouTube Channel, so you can catch the whole service any time. The church can be found on Facebook and YouTube by doing a simple search for First Congregational Church of Saugatuck. It is also on our church website.

## Ways to Serve

### In Worship:

There are sign up sheets for Greeters, Fellowship Host, Liturgist, Poet, Tech Helper, and Hymn Leader. Sign ups are open to everyone!

### In the Community:

Check out the "Donation Zone" by the handicap entrance of the church. There you will see shelving and baskets to place your in-kind donations for our various seasonal mission projects. We regularly collect requested items for area non-profits like the Christian Neighbors food pantry or the domestic violence shelter. Their needs change often so keep your eye on the weekly worship bulletin for updates.

## Ways to Give

### Make a Donation:

Your financial gifts to the church remain vitally important to keeping our building functioning for the community, keeping our staff paid, and keeping our ministries active! Thank you for your ongoing support.

You can mail your checks to:  
First Congregational Church  
PO Box 633  
Saugatuck MI 49453

Or you can give online via the Tithe.ly platform. Scan this QR code to get connected.



# Weekly Worship Volunteers

## Hymn Leader

July 7: Cathy Brockington  
July 14: Pat Gentry  
July 21: Connie Rusiecki  
July 28: Danny Mayer

## Poet

July 7: Linda Escott  
July 14: Kathy Plapp  
July 21: Dave Edwards  
July 28: Kristyn Boyce

## Fellowship Host

July 7: Phyllis Yff & Linda Escott  
July 14:  
July 21: Sue Nelson  
July 28:

## Greeter

July 7: Sue Nelson  
July 14: Kathy Plapp  
July 21: Dave Edwards  
July 28: Kristyn Boyce

## Liturgist

July 7: Danny Mayer  
July 14: Thom Houseman  
July 21: Cathy Brockington  
July 28: Linda Escott

## Community Life

Submitted by Pat Gentry

Our theme for the upcoming 4th of July Parade is Butterflies!

We will be handing out envelopes of milkweed seeds to parade goers. Milkweed is an important plant because it serves as a lifeline for monarch butterflies. Also, the plant supports a wide variety of pollinators required for a healthy food chain that humans depend on.

Don your butterfly wings and meet us at the church at 9:30am as we go to the high school to parade line up.



## CONGREGATIONAL

### ORNER

The Theological Commission of the International Congregational Fellowship (ICF) and the Congregational Library & Archives are delighted to sponsor a virtual, half-day conference on the theme, "**Mission and Transmission: Walking in the Congregational Way.**"

This virtual conference will be held **Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 12:00-5:00 pm Eastern Time via Zoom**. Participants from around the world can take part. Registration is free. A sign up sheet will be available on the welcome table. **As a church we will gather in the Chapel to participate together.**

The Congregational Way is an expression of Christianity in every part of the world. For some, it was spread through the mission agencies of the USA and UK. In other places, it was transmitted through shifts in population as a result of persecution and conflict, or exploration and seeking new lives. But, it has also arisen as a natural response to the Gospel, as God calls communities to express their lives in freedom.

Dr. Brian Fiu Kolia, an ordained minister of the Congregational Christian Church Samoa and a lecturer in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Malua Theological College, will be the keynote speaker. Those who attended last summer's ICF meeting were both blessed and impressed with Brian's vast knowledge and approachability.

Brian's keynote, titled "A Changing Church *but* an Unchanged Bible: Congregationalism in Samoa and the Diaspora," will look at how the Samoan Congregational Church has changed face from its traditional form in Samoa to its form in diasporic communities, becoming spaces for the maintaining of Samoan culture and language while fostering communities and networking, a somewhat decolonized version of the Samoan Congregational Church. Yet despite this, reading and interpretation of the Bible and its subsequent theologies have remained subdued under the tight colonial grip of traditional Western applications and methodology/ies. Such Westernized readings fail to recognize Samoan concerns and questions of identity in diasporic lands. Brian's talk will explain the need for decolonial readings that reflect the changing decolonizing church, which seeks to embrace Samoan native-ness in reading and interpretation.

The full event program and links to register for each session are now available on our website at <https://congregationallibrary.org/walking-congregational-way> Please sign up to attend this fascinating event. This will no doubt be an engaging conversation.

## Women's Fellowship

*Bringing women together for service,  
Fellowship, and spiritual growth.*

**Submitted by: Linda Escott, President**

Bible study found us in a really good discussion on the Book of Samuel, Chapters 4 and 5!

In our June meeting, we decided to gather items for *Music in the Park* after the service. Also, we donated money to the Fowler family who recently lost their home due to a tornado. On July 24th, we will be assembling the Seafarers' Ditty Bags.

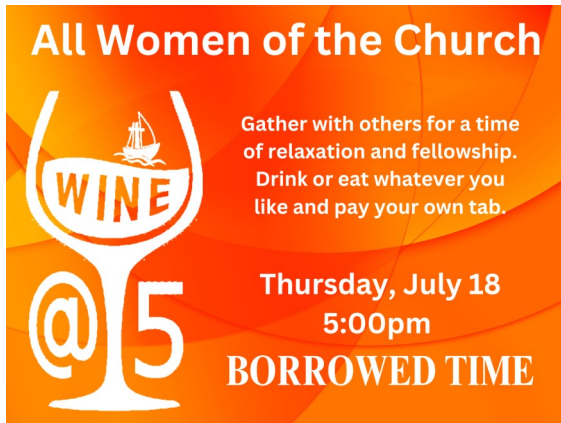
We are still hoping to organize an outing in the fall to the Art Barn, as well as a Kokedama (moss ball) class at Puddingstone. And, we talked about possible locations for Wine @ 5 during the summer. **Watch this space for updates!**

Our next meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, July 3rd at 10am**. And, the next Wine @ 5 is on **Thursday, July 18th at Borrowed Time** in Douglas.

We hope you'll join us!

Together in Christ,

Linda Escott



## Financial Snapshot

**Submitted by Phyllis Yff, Treasurer**

- As of 5/31/24 we had \$175 in our General Fund Checking compared with last year's \$35,040 (2023 includes campaign).
- Heritage Fund - YTD gain/loss, transfers and expenses has our unrestricted balance down \$2538.
- YTD money market transfers \$20,000. 5/31 Unrestricted Heritage Fund Balance is 91,723.
- May Budgeted Expenses are \$16,874 (includes \$4100 steps). Collections \$7171.
- YTD Expenses are \$11,820 over budget. Collections are \$4088 under budget.
- Parking Lot donations through May are \$646

## Music in the Park

**Submitted by: Linda Escott, President**

Many thanks to those who have signed up to set up or host the table during our bake sales.

Thanks, also, to those who are talking about "baking up a storm"

to help us raise money for our church. And again, gratitude to those who are purchasing our baked goods at Music in the Park!



If you are baking items, please remember they need to be packaged for individual sales. If you "bake up a storm" and freeze the items for future dates, please let the hosts know. Items can only be frozen once. Items not sold will be placed in the freezer for the next week, so if they've already been frozen we need to know and they will be left out for Coffee Hour the following Sunday.

Hope to see you at Music in the Park!

## Cookbook Recipes Needed

**Submitted by: Cathy Brockington**

I am still collecting recipes for our Coffee Hour Cookbook. Your favorite recipe(s) would make a great addition. Thanks to those that have already contributed.

Gerrit Sturrus	Melinda Nieuwma
Tina Sturrus	Bev Nieuwma
Linda Escott	Phyllis Yff
Cindy Raue	Janna Rudich
Nyla Hensley	Dottie Houser
Tom Schippa	Betty Van Wieren
Pat Gentry	Vicki Nyland
Cathy Brockington	

Please email your recipe(s) to:

[Cabrocking68@mail.com](mailto:Cabrocking68@mail.com)

Deadline for submissions is midnight June 20 (Summer Solstice).

# Prayer Requests

- For the church as we seek to minister to our bustling summer-time community.
- For Russ Davis who has had reoccurring pneumonia.
- For Trish, for her spirit and joy.
- For Scott (neighbor of Linda Escott) who is healing from a stroke.
- For all of those hosting family and friends, may God's love be present in their hospitality.
- For Brad Rudich, who is dealing with changes in his strength and capacity.
- For Celesta (Pat Gentry's Aunt) for her spirit and sense of contentment.
- For those navigating cancer: Tom, Judy, Tess, Mikey, Terry, Patty, Dave, Doug, Mike, Brenda, Ashley, Stu and many, many more.
- For all those seeking safe and affordable housing.
- For those in seasons of transition: Ginny (Phyllis Yff's mother moving into independent living), Vicky Boyce (moving to Saugetuck), the Terlouws' (who will be moving in July).
- For those on healing journeys: Jordan, Nancy Nyland, Michelle Farrell (Connie Rusiecki's daughter), Robert Moore, Ada, Bobbie Joe (cousin of Danny Mayer), Don.
- For all those with Dementia or Alzheimer's. That God might bring them peace and clarity of mind. We pray for Joan Lamb.
- We pray for all care givers: Frank, Lee, Angela, Angie, and many more.
- For Ashley Evans and her young family as they try and get back on their feet.
- For our hurting planet, that we all might be motivated to take better care of our earthy home.
- For Adam Schafer (Mike and Pat Gentry's grandson) for his health, vitality and joy as he manages Muscular Dystrophy.
- For Mike Gentry as he deals with back pain.
- For all of those dealing with diabetes, and seeking to make significant life changes.
- For all of those recovering from COVID and enduring long COVID symptoms.
- For our military folks who are serving around the world: Andrew Rudich and Chris Raue. Prayers for Chris as he is in the complicated process of retiring from his position.
- For truth, wisdom and justice - and for the Holy Spirit to heal places of deep hate.
- For the strength and peace of our nation during a challenging election season.
- For all those experiencing homelessness.
- For all of those struggling with depression.
- For those just emerging from prison and trying to build a new life.
- For those in seasons of recovery from addiction.
- For the health and psyche of our nation.
- For an end of gun violence.



## Flood Relief for Spencer, Iowa

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC) is gratefully accepting donations for the catastrophic flooding in Spencer, Iowa.

To make an online donation, go to [www.naccc.org/donate/](http://www.naccc.org/donate/)

**click** Make an Online Donation **select** Use this donation for I will designate my gift on the next screen.

\*Designate your donation to Spencer, Iowa, Flood Relief.

For checks, please mail to:  
 NACCC  
 PO Box 288  
 Oak Creek, WI 53154

\*Please include a note designating the funds to Spencer, Iowa, Flood Relief.

Please keep our sister church First Congregational Church of Spencer, Iowa in your prayers. Pray that the Spirit might help them respond to the community's needs during this challenging time. First Congregational Spencer is the church that Revs. Tom and Wendy Van Tassell retired from. Their new ministry, Pastor Shazzy, currently has about 4 feet of water in her home. Clean up will be extensive!





# JULY



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> WFC Bible Study & Mtg, 10am  Music in the Park Bake Sale, 7pm	<b>4</b>  4th of July Parade	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Board of Ministry 6:30pm  District AA 6:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Music in the Park Bake Sale, 7pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  12PM Zoom Conference  Music in the Park Bake Sale, 7pm	<b>18</b>  Wine @ 5, Borrowed Time	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  12PM Ditty Bag Pack  Music in the Park Bake Sale, 7pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Music in the Park Bake Sale, 7pm	<u>Cub Scouts</u> Wednesdays: 6pm	<u>Weekly Recovery Groups Schedule</u> Mondays: AA, 7pm Tuesdays: AA, 12pm Tuesdays: AA, 7pm Wednesdays: AA, 12:30pm Thursdays: AA, 7pm Thursdays: Alanon, 7pm	

296 Hoffman - PO Box 633 - Saugatuck, MI 49453 - 269-857-2929  
 1stcongregational.net - Office Hours: 8:30am-12:30pm, Tues-Thurs - office@1stcongregational.net

*Worship with us every Sunday at 10am! In-person and online.*