

“Whatever Your Story, You’re Welcome Here”

SUMMER 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Messages from the Ministers
- Graduation
- Youth Sunday
- Scrip
- Historian’s Corner
- Get Involved
- All-Church Picnic/Holly-Day Photo Booth Pictures
- Heritage Society
- Introducing Renee Bovee
- Wednesday Matinee
- June/July Calendar

*Whatever Your
Story,
You’re Welcome
Here*

Thoughts from Bob



It is always hard for me to believe another program year has already passed, and we are heading now into the summer months of June, July, and August. I think this year has gone by especially fast. As I have reflected on why this is true for me, I think it is because of the many staff transitions this year.

In late April, we said farewell to Betsy Hill, who retired after loyally and skillfully serving our church for 18 years as our church secretary. Then in May, we said goodbye to Holly Porter, who retired after creatively and caringly serving our church for 12 years as our Director of Christian Education. Finally, coming up the end of June, on June 26, we will wish Godspeed to our excellent church organist, Glenn Tucker, as Glenn leaves FCC to pursue his passion as a jazz pianist through a special program he was recently accepted into at UCLA. Wow!

However, even as we must say our goodbyes to several beloved staff, we are also beginning to say our hellos to new staff as they come onboard. And though we are continuing our search process for our new Director of Christian Education and our new church organist (Yes, we are making progress!), I am very pleased to welcome to FCC our new administrative assistant, Renee Bovee (Please see the separate article and picture of Renee and her children in this Courier). Renee is a local Ann Arbor resident. She comes to us with wonderful skills and broad experience from working many years in a local area law office and from holding a temporary clerical position with the Ann Arbor Fire Department. Renee is a terrific person...fun, assertive, mature, and very capable. She has big shoes to fill (Betsy’s!) and a huge amount of new things to learn! We can all help with Renee’s orientation by taking time to stop by the church office and introducing ourselves to her (and then reminding her again of our names). Renee wants to get to know you all! And let me add from personal experience, it takes a good year to learn a job like hers in a church community as busy and as big as FCC. So please be patient and give Renee all the assistance you can.

(continued on page 2)

Bob's message (continued)

Now there is one other thing I would like to mention. You may recall that the Ann Arbor Art Fair is moving to a new schedule this summer...to Thursday, July 21 through Sunday, July 24. On Sunday, the Art Fair will open their doors a little later, at noon, allowing churches like ours to have easy access to Sunday worship services. There will also be ample free parking for FCC'ers in the Maynard Street parking structure on the 24th, which will be accessible from Thompson Street (not Maynard Street). Additionally, there will be free, easy-accessibility parking for those who have mobility needs at the parking lot at the end of Maynard Street, right in front of the University of Michigan LSA building, along with two golf carts on site to transport people down the block to FCC! We will send out more information and updates to you about this in upcoming Friday emails, and we will place special Art Fair Sunday information in our Sunday worship bulletins and on our FCC website prior to July 24. Please contact the church office, or any of our staff, if you have any particular questions or special needs. Please plan on joining us for worship on the 24th! I think it will be a very fun Sunday to be at church! And then stay afterwards and enjoy the Art Fair.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy, relaxing, and refreshing summer! Please come and join us for worship on Sundays when you are in the area... and please remember FCC when you are away... as, I assure you, we will also be remembering you and praying for you.

Blessings to you and yours,



Bob Livingston
Senior Minister

Our Core Values:

Caring: We are a loving and mutually supportive faith community.

Proclaiming the Good News: We believe in a living and loving God.

Respect: We embrace openness, diversity and individual faith journeys.

Compassion: We serve and support the needs of others.

Fellowship: We celebrate and enjoy life with each other.

Our Mission:

We are a beacon of God's love, hope, and Christian freedom

At the Rez

This summer will be a transformative one for our youth and leaders travelling to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. I am thankful and humbled by the group from 2007 who traveled and worked for the Lakota people. They were changed in the process and their experiences have allowed our youth to broaden their lens of our world, our country's history, and what a blessing true opportunity and privilege is.

We will be working with an organization called Wings as Eagles Ministries. Our work will be twofold. We will help run a day camp at what they call the Dream Center, a facility on the reservation that provides Native youth (aged 2-14) with 2 meals, early literacy encouragement, nurture and recreational games and activities. The other project will be to do the construction finishing work on a duplex that is being built for longitudinal mission programs (similar to Teach for America) that will create lasting change and new opportunities for Native youth. The focus on this particular ministry organization is on changing the future of children and youth on the reservation.

Through their efforts, a group of teenagers were able to travel outside the reservation for the first time in their lives. They went to New York and also saw the ocean for the first time. One of the youth said, "I never really understood what dreams and possibility meant until that trip." We are thrilled to serve and learn alongside the Lakota people. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel the long 2 day drive from Michigan to South Dakota.



If you would like to contribute supplies, we are in need of the following (to be brought by June 16):

Peanut Butter	Diapers (size 3 & 4)
Granola Bars	Hand soap
Coffee	Paper plates/plastic ware
Basketballs/soccer balls/volleyballs	Baby Clothes (size 0-2T)
Lowe's cards (\$25 each) (from the Scrip table!)	

Thank you for your support of this outreach. We will report back to the congregation and share our experiences on Sunday, August 21 during our 10 a.m. worship service.

Darcy

Church School News

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."
- Jeremiah 29.11*

Please join the families of the following High School Graduates in Congratulations and wish these young adults well on their next journey:

Colin Matthew Bott, Huron High; UM College of Engineering
 Maya Elizabeth Burris, Community High; DePaul University
 Joe Costello, Skyline High; UM College of Engineering
 Abigail Paige Hackett, Pinckney High; University of Michigan
 Julia Alexandra Hines, Pioneer High; University of Pennsylvania
 Micaela Rose Keller, Skyline High; Princeton University
 Jack Kelley, Community & Huron; MSU James Madison Residential College
 Margaret Claire Koester, Huron High; University of Michigan (pre-med)
 Zeke Arthur Majeske, Skyline High; UM College of Engineering
 Robert Hamilton Schirmer, Skyline High; Loyola University
 Brendan Nicholas Spencer, Greenhills School; Butler University
 Marie Katherine White, Pioneer High; University of Michigan

Let us also celebrate the following Collegiate Graduates:

John Everett, Bachelor's in Engineering, Bio-Systems Agriculture, MSU
 Alissa Rheinheimer, Bachelor's (double major) Language, Literature and Writing
 & Communication; Eastern Michigan University
 Andy Creal; MSU James Madison College
 John Muhs, Juris Doctor; University of Michigan Law School

Senior High Youth



Micaela Keller

Youth Sunday was once again a moving and inspiring service. Our youth worked cooperatively deciding on a theme and then dividing the roles of worship throughout the group. Those gifted in music played in the prelude, postlude, and anthem



Robert Schirmer

times, as pictured here. Six of our seniors showed poise and wisdom as they delivered the sermon based upon the theme of servitude. Congrats to the youth group on a job well done!

Great Lakes Scrip

The end of the school year is near and gifts for the teachers are always appreciated. What better gift than a Scrip Card? Please check out our selection at the Scrip table in the



see if it is a card that Great Lakes Scrip carries. If it is, we can get it for you! In addition to making your life a little easier, we receive a discounted rate! The

Mayflower lobby on Sunday morning. If there is a particular retailer that you

would like, and we do not have it on the table, you can go to shopwithscrip.com and

profits help to supplement different mission/work trips of our church.

Historian's Corner

The Rev. Lloyd Douglas was one of our best known ministers. In 1920, the church presented him with a Model T Ford. He was very appreciative and used the car extensively in visits around the parish. One April morning, he decided to wash the rather muddy car before conducting a funeral that afternoon. He drove the car up on the lawn near their house on Hill St. and washed and washed the car. The free flowing water soaked the new spring grass under the car. Eventually he called his family out to admire his work and told them of the money he had saved since taking the car to a car wash would have cost \$2.00. Mrs. Douglas did turn off the hose. When Rev. Douglas started the car the wheels turned but the car did not move. He got madder and madder as he spun the wheels deeper into the lawn. Eventually a garage had to be called to pull

the car out and wash it again, and other men were called to fill the hole and re-seed the lawn.

One Sunday Rev. Douglas told the congregation "for some time the collection plates have included an unnecessary number of pennies. You can't buy anything for a penny. Nor can the church." The next Sunday students came in even larger numbers and emptied their pockets loaded with pennies into the collection plates. The ushers had to empty the plates several times and several extra plates had to be added to the altar table. "They were piled high with pennies making a row of copper mountains waiting to be blessed." Rev. Douglas did enjoy the involvement of the students and directed part of each sermon to them.

– Betty Bishop

Help Us Update the Church History

Many of you have been involved with FCC for years and have stories to tell. We want to collect those stories as part of the update of the church history. We will have a time for videotaping your stories and memories on a Sunday after church in April or May.

If you would like to participate, please contact Betty Bishop at bbishop@umich.edu or (734) 662-9492.

Thank you for your involvement!
The History Committee

FCC Vision Statement:

We strive to be a joyous spiritual home, welcoming and valuing all people, embracing God's word and enriching lives.

Hand in Hand Center

Saturday, June 4
 9:15 a.m.—Noon
 Monteith Hall
 First Presbyterian Church
 1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor

Enjoy light lunch (suggested donation \$5).
 Call for more info (734) 662-4466

Hear Kathi Neubert discuss her work with the Hand in Hand School in Jerusalem as Peacemaking Associate For Jewish/Presbyterian Dialog Group in Houston.

Learn more about Hand in Hand Schools and their mission to create a new paradigm for peace in Israel and how FCC can support these institutions.

Tiny Houses

A plan to build a small community of 26 “Tiny Houses” in Detroit is moving forward and is scheduled to begin this summer. The 300 square foot homes will be available to carefully screened “working poor” people with annual incomes of \$1,000 a month who cannot afford Habitat for Humanity

homes. At the end of 7 years the residents will own their own homes.

A program explaining this exciting new initiative in Detroit will take place in early June. More Details on date, time, and location will be forthcoming in next Friday’s FCC email. In the meantime, if you want to

learn more please contact Bob or Sara Holmes:
 (734) 358-1325
 rbholmes@umich.edu
 holmess@umich.edu.

The Tiny House program is a joint project of Cass Community Social Services and Cass Community United Methodist Church in Detroit.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: June 5—June 12 Water Drive

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) 2016 Annual Meeting, is being held June 25-28 in Dearborn, Michigan. This year’s special mission to address a need of the host area is to collect water for the residents of Flint who continue to deal with contaminated water issues. To support this effort, please consider donating water in sealed gallon size jugs. We will accept donations June 5- June 12. On June 5 & June 12, donations may be dropped off at the Scrip table in the Mayflower Lobby. During the week please drop your donations off with Renee Bovee in the secretary’s office. In lieu of bringing water, please feel free to submit a check during the same week to the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor and designate “Flint Water” in the memo line. FCC will purchase additional gallon jugs with those funds. FCC will deliver the water to the annual meeting.

Holly-Day Church Picnic Photo Booth Pictures





The All-Church Picnic and Holly-Day were a HUGE success! Many thanks to all who participated in providing food, volunteering time, and for those who shared in the fun and fellowship.

Thank You!

Heritage Society

Sunday, June 5, will mark the 3rd year we have celebrated Heritage Society membership and its role in our church with its own special day. The spirit of this annual day is intended to embody appreciation and gratitude.

What is Heritage Society?

Members of the Heritage Society have been the primary source of church endowment and investment funds over the years. They have made planned gifts, primarily through their estates. These gifts have helped to fund our ongoing efforts. When I look back at the impact of past Heritage Society gifts, I see that they have strengthened the beacon we have to share God's love.

The Heritage Society's committee is organized under the umbrella of Board of Trustees. Current committee members include: Mike Dabbs, Beth and Joe Fitzsimmons, Bob Holmes, Melissa Joy, Fritz Seyferth, and Jean and Jim Wedemeyer. Bob Livingston and Darcy Crain-Polly also attend Heritage Society meetings and provide information to members and prospective members. All of our committee members and ministers are available for discussions of Heritage Society with you.

Please Mark your Calendar:

Please join us on June 5 to recognize and appreciate our current Heritage Society members. If you are a current or prospective member, please join us for brunch on Sunday, June 5, at 9 a.m. in the Mayflower room. Please RSVP to Renee (renee@fccannarbor.org) in the church office if you will be attending.

Would you like more information about Heritage Society membership?

The Heritage Society is intended to be open to everyone in the church. A minimum suggested donation starts at \$10,000. You can find more information about the Heritage Society on our webpage on FCC's website. This includes last year's Heritage Sunday informational video, a bequest intent form, and information about your own legacy planning.

Please contact me for questions or discussion at mwood19@gmail.com or 734-657-0880 or if this is the right time for you to consider Heritage Society membership.

On behalf of the Heritage Society committee and trustees,

Melissa Joy
Trustee, Heritage Society Chair

Renee Bovee

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the position of administrative assistant with the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. I have had the great fortune of meeting so many of you already and cannot help but feel blessed at the outpouring of genuine warmth and kindness in welcoming me to this position. I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to not only meeting everyone, but working with you as well. I am honored to play such a big part in this congregation.

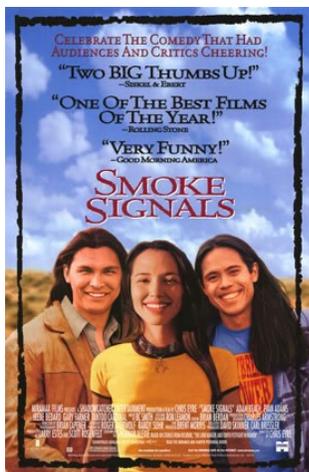
I am a resident of Ann Arbor, and have two fantastic children. Brandon is a freshman at Skyline, and Maya is a first grader at Logan. We spend a lot of time at the local dog parks with our fur babies, Sobi and Bandit.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything, and feel free to stop in and say hello!

(734) 926-0550 renee@fccannarbor.org



INTRODUCING: Wednesday Matinee



Please join us on Wednesday, June 22 at 11:00 a.m. to support the Youth Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation. In addition to a movie, we will serve a light lunch and listen to music performed by Terry Farmer in Pilgrim Hall. The movie selection, "Smoke Signals" seemed an appropriate choice as the story takes place on an Indian reservation. The film is unique as an all-Native American production: producers, director, screenwriter, actors and technicians.

The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor



608 E. William St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: 734.662.1679
fccannarbor.org



Robert Livingston, Senior Minister, x554
Darcy Crain-Polly, Associate Minister, x552
Director of Christian Education, x553
Newsletter information:
E-mail: renee@fccannarbor.org

Summer Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m.
Communion Service,
Douglas Memorial Chapel

10 a.m.
Summer Worship Service
Church School during the
10 a.m. worship service

11 a.m.
Friendship Hour,
Pilgrim Hall

Whatever
Your Story,
You're
Welcome
Here

The First Congregational Church May 2016 Calendar

June 1	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group (Final meeting before summer recess)
June 5	9:00 a.m.	HERITAGE SOCIETY SUNDAY Heritage Society Brunch Mayflower Room
	11:00 a.m.	Special Congregational Meeting Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Junior High Canoe Trip
June 7	7:00 p.m.	Youth Mission Trip Meeting
June 18-26		Youth Mission Trip
June 19		FATHER'S DAY
	11:00 a.m.	AFC Ice Cream Social Pilgrim Hall
June 20	6:15 p.m.	Trustees Meeting Mayflower Room
June 22	11:00 a.m.	Wednesday Matinee
June 26		GLENN TUCKER RECOGNITION DAY
July 3	11:00 a.m.	AFC Hot Dog Luncheon Pilgrim Hall
July 4		INDEPENDENCE DAY Office Closed
July 21-24		ART FAIR

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS (June—Labor Day)

Monday—Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.—Noon

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER COURIER:
AUGUST 12
renee@fccannarbor.org