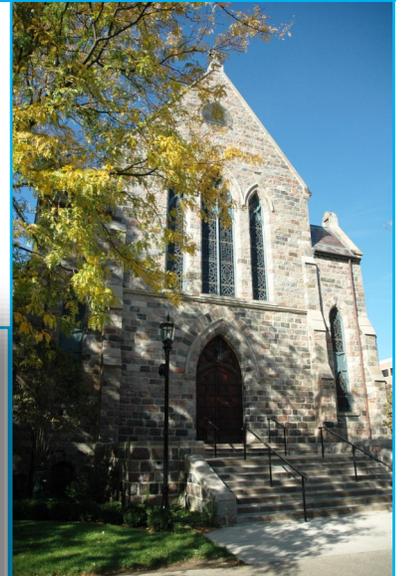


# Congregational Courier

## THOUGHTS FROM BOB LIVINGSTON

### SENIOR MINISTER



Dear Friends,

There are a two things I would like to highlight in my Courier message to you this month.

First of all, Wednesday, February 14, Valentine’s Day, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days plus six Sundays between Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Easter (April 1). Lent was first established in the 4th century and is meant, today, to be a time of reflection and renewal. As we think of the teachings and ministry of Jesus, including the events that led to his passion and death, we recommit ourselves to God’s ideals, both for our lives and for the good of our world. I hope you will join us on our Lenten journey this year as we focus our sermons on “Antidotes for an Out of Control Life” and the passion narrative of Jesus.

Secondly, I want to share my joy with you in announcing that Rachel Dudley has been selected as our new part-time Director of Christian Education. As you may know, Rachel has been serving FCC as our interim Director of Christian Education since September and has done an absolutely exceptional job of filling in for our former director, Sarah Chaffee, who resigned her position last summer to accept a full-time teaching/childcare opportunity at the Towsley Children’s House through the University of Michigan. Rachel comes to us with a wonderful background in administration, a proven track record of excellence, and a deep faith and church experience. She is friendly and warm, committed, organized, focused, and a marvelous team player. I think Rachel is just the person we need at this time to continue the leadership we have enjoyed from Holly and Sarah. We will recognize Rachel’s new position as our DCE on Sunday, February 4, during the 10 a.m. service and celebrate with cake afterwards in Pilgrim Hall. Please join me in welcoming Rachel to our Christian Education staff!

Thank you all for being a part of the FCC experience where we aim to live up to our motto: Whatever your story, you are welcome here!

Blessings to you and yours,  


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### FCC Vision Statement:

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

*Whatever Your Story, You’re Welcome Here*

# DARCY CRAIN

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER



### “Perspective”



Last month I stood in the sanctuary on a Saturday night with members of our confirmation class in a contest where you try to get an oreo from your forehead to your mouth only using your facial muscles. Confirmation retreats are the best!

In addition to eating oreos, the students explored the church building taking photographs of places and things we pass each Sunday, but doing so from a unique perspective. I thought I knew this church well and would be able to identify everything, even in its most obscure angle. I was wrong. Their unique perspective was so breathtaking that I could scarcely recognize objects I walked past almost daily. I was struck anew by their beauty and by how much we miss keeping the same comfortable perspective.



That Sunday, Bob offered an outstanding sermon that invited us to see the perspective of three characters in the story of the prodigal son: The father, the wayward son, and the rule-following son. Sometimes we get so comfortable in one perspective that we are unable to step back and see it from a different angle. This story invites us to accept that we will experience life in all three persons; the recklessly forgiving father, the recklessly behaving son, and the indignant

bitterness of the elder son. In that light, as we finish our series on forgiveness this month, I offer you this prayer:

*God, we come to you not because we must but because we may. We worship not because we are bad and need redeeming, but because you have already redeemed, and we desire to thank you, worship you, and be led in wisdom to live into that life of redemption.*

*At times in our lives we have been in the position of the lost son. We have made decisions that were reckless; our carelessness or selfishness or impatience have caused rifts and messes deeper and greater than what we ever intended. Thank you for teaching us in the midst of our messes; for like the son whom you led to realize his mistakes and return home, we acknowledge our wrongs and return home to you. You greet us with open arms. You throw us parties. Your forgiveness is reckless and beyond our understanding. We don't deserve it, but I guess that's why that call it grace.*

*Thank you for your reckless love. Help us to model that. Help us forgive recklessly, and love recklessly, taking the lead of the father.*

*Sometimes God we find ourselves in the position of the older brother; we feel justified in our anger; we struggle to watch others be celebrated or elevated or blessed when we believe we deserve it more. The kingdom your Son brought was not about who deserved it, but who claimed and lived it. You have invited us to claim this life, with its recklessness and its disregard of scorecards. Help us with our frustration when we feel like the older brother. Help us to join the party and experience the joy.*

*As we journey through this series on forgiveness, God, guide our hearts to open to the people and issues that we have stuffed down deep in our pile of the stuff we'd rather not deal with. Help us to face issues not out of shame or guilt but out of a desire to live and love fully.*

*Thank you for the life of joy that you have invited us to experience> May we live into it with all that we have and hope to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darcy".

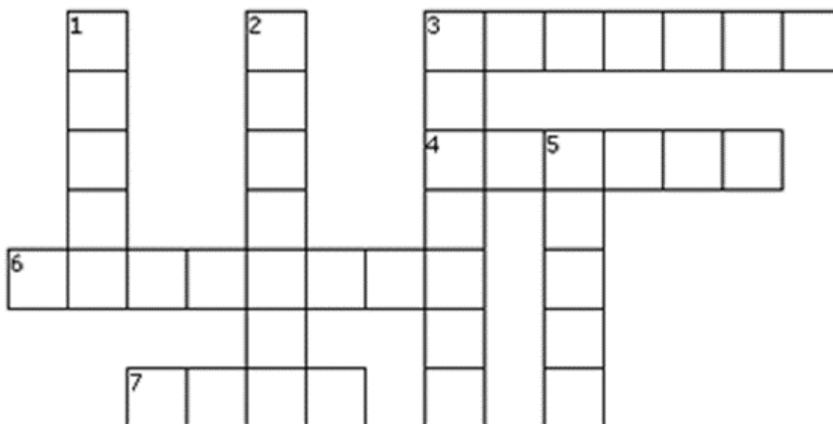
Church school classes are going to continue to study the book of Mark this winter. Stories of Jesus’ love for all people (including children) will be a continuous theme throughout all of the Bible stories. See how you do on the crossword puzzle below!

# Let the Children Come

*Rachel*



He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14b (NIV)



**ACROSS**

- 3. Bringing happiness, pleasure, or contentment to someone
- 4. Small in size
- 6. Sons and daughters, young people
- 7. The parts of the body which connect the hands to the shoulders

**DOWN**

- 1. A statement accepted as fact
- 2. A country or territory ruled by a king or queen
- 3. To be a member of a group, such as a club or organization
- 5. To come in contact with or to feel with your fingers

little	touch	kingdom	arms
children	truth	belongs	blessed

**Picture Request:** Sadly, I was not able to take many pictures during the Christmas Pageant. Please send any pictures you are willing to share to [rachel@fccannarbor.org](mailto:rachel@fccannarbor.org). Thank you!

# HISTORIAN'S CORNER

## BETTY BISHOP, CHURCH HISTORIAN

Prior to 1915, the First Congregational Church did not have an annual budget or formal financial reports. As a deacon said, prior to that time, all financial matters were handled by "talking to the Lord". Trustee Shirley Smith, active in the University of Michigan administration for many years, got the church to adopt a budget and reporting system in September 1915.

That first (1915) Treasurer's Report is summarized as:

Receipts (including pew rentals of \$4409): \$9,421

Disbursements (including pastor's salary of \$2,125 and loan repayment of \$1,200): \$9,388.

Cash on Hand: \$33.

Following a stressful decade with World War One, monetary inflation, and a decline in Church resources, the State Banking Department, having reviewed the accounts of the loaning bank, insisted the Church loan be "substantially reduced." The plan was to make a \$2,000 per year payment against the loan of \$17,289, but pledges were not paid to support the loan payments.

A new fund drive in 1941 raised over \$24,000 for many needed improvements including the 20 stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Most of the windows were donated in memory of loved ones. In the early 1940s, the Trustees were able to pay off the old bank loans, and by December 31, 1946, the Church was completely out of debt.



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### FUNDRAISING STEERING COMMITTEE

TED SPENCER (CHAIR), Bob Livingston, Dan Jacobs, Sally Martin, Chris McKenney, Jean Wedemeyer, Deb Bourque, Fritz Seyferth, Joe Fitzsimmons

### DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

DAN JACOBS (CHAIR), Peter Sandretto, Don Price, Scott Allen, Jane Thomson, Bob Livingston

Our trustees are considering a Capital Campaign and want to know what members feel should be included as priority improvements if the campaign is approved. There will be three meetings of the congregation over the next few months after the 11 a.m. service. We hope you can participate in all of them! Each is geared to a specific piece of information and feedback.

- February 18<sup>th</sup>: Member and chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, Dan Jacobs, will offer a presentation explaining why we are considering a capital campaign to make some of the architect's recommended improvements and upgrades.
- March 11<sup>th</sup>: The architect will present the initial concepts of components that could be included in the campaign. The congregation will have the opportunity to actually see and provide input on proposed improvements to FCC.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>: An informative presentation will be given on what specific improvements the congregation will be asked to vote on at the member meeting on April 29.

We want your input! Please take a moment to visit [fccannarbor.org](http://fccannarbor.org) and click the "Open Commentary" link on the home page to provide your suggestions and concerns. Hard copies of the open commentary form are dispersed throughout FCC if you'd prefer to submit your questions, comments, and concerns on paper.

"Investing in Our Future" is what others did for us 171 years ago. Now is our opportunity to step up and provide for those who follow us.



## Healing Space: Where music, meditation, and prayer meet

Please join us on Sunday, February 11 from 7-8 p.m. in the Mayflower Room when we feature recorded music by local composer David Barrett. "Anger as Our Spiritual Ally" will be the focus of the reflection and guided meditation. Our bodies were made with wondrous and sometimes troubling emotions, but they too can play a part in our spiritual healing and health. There will also be a time for prayer.

This new service meets the 2nd Sunday of each month from 7-8 p.m. If you need further information, please contact Gail Haynes or Liz Larrivee.

*Our Mission: We are a beacon of God's love, hope, and Christian Freedom.*

## MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

PAM DABBS (CHAIR), Mary Jackson, Connie Nagle, Anne Rueter, Suzanne Price, Greg Eggleston, Greg Jackson, Nicki Griffith, Janet Allen

It is hard to believe that we are already into February and along with it comes FCC's turn for the daytime warming shelter! This is our 4th year running, and we are off to a great start for our days on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. Most of the slots are filled for volunteers, and sign-ups for snacks and supplies are gaining momentum! Your continued support for the shelter is obvious in the way you have responded to M&O's call for help!

Often, many of you ask what can be donated to help with the shelter, so this year we are using an online based computer program called "Sign-Up Genius," which some of you may be familiar with. We have put a link to both of our sign-ups on our website for your convenience in signing up as a volunteer at the shelter, or to donate supplies. If you are not comfortable using a computer to do this, or you have other questions, please call Pam Dabbs at 734-668-4884.

FCC could not do anything in the way of missions without your support. You, each of you, make a

difference in the success or failure of the shelter!

Please feel good about anything you have done this year to be supportive because all the donated parts, including "time given," make the warming shelter a lifesaving, warm, safe, supportive and loving place to be! **TOGETHER WE ARE THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AND WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**, because **CARING ABOUT OTHERS IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US!** Again, thank you so much for your support!



## STEWARDSHIP

### MARK SCHIRMER

Our next stewardship campaign will kick off later this spring. May is Pledge Month, a time when we will ask the entire FCC family to consider how each and every member can help our church and all it stands for in the community. But pledge month is not the only time we think about stewardship. As so many of our church members demonstrate, stewardship is a year-round commitment, an endless opportunity to help and volunteer, to do God's work in the community, and help make FCC wonderful.

Early in January, Bob led our church family in the annual Litany for the New Year. It was a thoughtful prayer and included these meaningful words: *Let us reflect on our use of time. And resolve to live out our understanding of stewardship, taking stock of what is of most importance.*

As we kick off 2018, it is important to reflect on how we spend our valuable time, our talents and our many treasures. During the upcoming FCC stewardship campaign, let's carefully reflect on

what is most valuable in our lives: family, friends, our church, our time together, the beacon we are to our community. We are all important stewards of an amazing treasure—the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. Let's make sure we all step up together to help support it.

It's never too early to begin thinking about how you will pledge your support to FCC during the 2018 stewardship campaign: donate your valuable time, support our many Mission and Outreach efforts, be a deacon, get involved with Christian Education, make a stewardship pledge or commit long term to the Heritage Society. Please take stock of what is most important. Every commitment, no matter how small, is worthwhile and appreciated. Are you ready to step forward to help in some way?

Pledge Month will be here before we know it. Please consider now how you will support this wonderful church. Please remember, we are a beacon of God's hope, love and Christian freedom. And our beacon only shines as brightly as the family that supports it.

As always, thank you for your commitment and unwavering support of FCC of Ann Arbor.

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

### PETE SANDRETTO (CHAIR), Don Price, Scott Allen, Larry Hill, Neil Adams, Joe Denay

I am pleased to report that our contractor finished doing all of the necessary caulking work on the front steps and William St. steps into the church before the winter weather hit. Better yet, this work was done under budget, which can be a challenge with a building as old as ours.

Also completed this fall was the repair of the window wells along the driveway next to the Mayflower Room. Again, we were fortunate in having this project completed significantly under budget. This work was simply a repair to prevent any further deterioration. A more permanent rebuilding of these window wells may be included as part of the capital campaign improvements.

We have been working with our new IT company to improve the wi-fi through the church. The work is expected to be done during February, so I hope you will notice a difference by March.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

### MJ QUIGLEY-YOUNG (CO-CHAIR), Michele Johns (Co-Chair), Bernard Patterson, Larry Jones, Kathy Beam

It was a highlight for our Choir and musicians to present the wonderful Advent Christmas Program. I think each of you would agree with me that the dedication of the choir and musicians to prepare for this program, the practices held in preparation and then its presentation is a real tribute to their love of music. We are indeed very fortunate to have such a wonderful musical tradition!

Also, we want to acknowledge Terry Farmer's efforts and all of the musicians he brought together for a special holiday performance. The addition of the Contemporary Music program truly adds to our church's rich musical traditions!

# TREASURER'S REPORT

MIKE DABBS

We are half-way through our 2017 - 2018 Fiscal Year and I am pleased to report that we are meeting our approved budget as you can see from the Summary Financial Statement. The trustees and I are very grateful for the congregation's response to our request in December to review your pledge payments and consider making a year-end donation. Our pledge income for the month of December was over \$92,000 and gifts exceeded \$3,700.

Nearly all expense categories are within their budget amounts. In short, we are ready to enter the second half of the year on solid footing.

## First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor 2017 - 2018 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2017

	ACTUAL 12/31/17	APPROVED BUDGET 7/1/17 - 6/30/18	NOTES
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledges	\$ 294,561	\$ 470,000	Note 1
Gifts - Operations	\$ 25,213	\$ 55,000	
Pre-paid Pledges	\$ -	\$ 12,500	Note 2
Other Income	\$ 22,444	\$ 20,250	
<b>Total Earned Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 342,218</b>	<b>\$ 557,750</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Ministry	\$ 133,503	\$ 227,505	
Administrative/Office	\$ 154,422	\$ 280,998	Note 3
Christian Education	\$ 20,922	\$ 45,334	
Music	\$ 37,354	\$ 70,430	
Missions & Outreach	\$ 7,489	\$ 30,130	
Maintenance & Utilities	\$ 49,430	\$ 104,860	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 403,120</b>	<b>\$ 759,257</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (60,902)</b>	<b>\$ (201,507)</b>	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 18,949	\$ 57,500	Note 4
TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTION	\$ 155,000	\$ 259,443	Principal: \$7,269 Note 5
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 75,149</b>	<b>\$ 436</b>	

### NOTES

1	2017-18 Approved Budget is amount shown; however, actual member pledges were \$505,000.
2	2017-18 Pre-paid Pledge balance is carryover from the Gap Year.
3	Increase in 2017-18 Budget due to marketing being included as an operating expense and a reduction in health care insurance for Assoc. Minister
4	2017-18 Capital Expenses reflected in Capital Expense Budget. Major item is the mortgage principal payment. First payment made in October 2017.
5	2017-18 Budgeted Trust Fund Distribution reflects 5% from all investment funds and Endowments including Memorial & Pastoral; plus an additional \$57,500 from the General Investments in order to off-set the increase in operating expenses and the capital expenses.

## TRUSTEES REPORT

MELISSA JOY (CHAIR), Liz Larrivee (Co-Chair), Brian Connelly, Joe Denay, Gae Miller, Dan Jacobs, Rick Reid, Pete Sandretto, Mark Foster

At the Trustees' January meeting, the focus of the meeting was receiving a comprehensive report of the issues and needs that have been identified as part of the architectural review. This review will be used to determine the improvements and updates to be made as part of the capital campaign. Dan Jacobs introduced Kingscott's architect, Sarah Haselschwardt, who has been meeting with staff and various focus groups. Sarah broke down these improvements into the following categories: Safety and Security; ADA Building and Restroom access; Gathering Space and Building Circulation; Chapel Upgrades; Sanctuary Upgrades; Mayflower and Kitchen Upgrades; Pilgrim Hall and Kitchen Upgrades; and Electrical Upgrades. Further input and discussions will occur during the month of January and February.

Treasurer, Mike Dabbs, presented a draft financial

statement for December 31. This will be updated once the reconciliation of all accounts has been completed. The reconciliations have not been completed due to the early trustees meeting date. Actual revenue is ahead of budget projections and actual expenses are within the budget.

Peter Sandretto reported for the Building and Grounds Committee that the front steps and William St steps caulking project was completed and done under the budget estimate.

The Marketing Committee reported that the sign adjacent to the Chapel at the William Street entrance will not be installed due to the city sign ordinance. This is due to more restrictive signage requirements for churches than for retail stores. An appeal was considered; however, upon further research and discussion, it was determined that it was unlikely to succeed. A letter will be sent to the city to express our concern.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

DICK MITCHELL (CHAIR)  
Lynda Norton (Vice Chair)  
Chris Vermeulen (Secretary)  
Mike Dabbs (Treasurer)  
Janet Chen (Clerk)  
Betty Bishop (Historian)  
Melissa Joy (Trustees Chair)  
Liz Larrivee (Trustees Vice Chair)  
Ellen Rambo (BOCE Chair)  
Bruce Pringle (Deacons Co-Chair)  
Nancy Vermeulen (Deacons Co-Chair)  
Sara Holmes (Contemporary Issues)  
Pam Dabbs (Missions & Outreach)  
MJ Quigley (Music Committee)  
Michele Johns (Music Committee)  
Kristy Stoneburner (Nominating)  
Rick Muhs (Nominating)  
Robert Livingston  
Darcy Crain  
Rachel Dudley

Church Council did not meet in the month of January. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 19.



## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES COMMITTEE

Sunday, February 11

From the time of the Old Testament until now, music is a vehicle for expression of political, emotional, physical, mental, social, and psychological perspectives. Dr. Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra works to give voice to the marginalized voiceless through multidisciplinary music compositions, hymn texts and festivals, and children's songs (tested in the Detroit Public Schools) that teach how to find peace within and how to emulate global peacemakers. Ruiten-Feenstra will provide examples from her works, *Muse in Peace*, *Muse for the Soul*, and *Belonging: A Carillon Call to Care for All*. Participants are invited to join in singing hymns that "weave world peace with tenderness."

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

BRIAN CONNELLY (CHAIR), Bob Livingston, Darcy Crain, Sarah Outslay, Michael Spath, Michael Dabbs, Renee Bovee, Sean Hickey (PWB)

In January, we wrapped up the outdoor billboard campaign that we have had for the past few months on various billboards around the Ann Arbor community. Based on Michigan Department of Transportation statistics, there have been literally hundreds of thousands of motorists driving by them. Hopefully, you also saw our ad in The Ann Arbor Observer over the holidays too. We've had a few members ask why we are doing this sort of marketing. Certainly, we understand that it may seem strange to market our church. It boils down to the principal that it takes many impressions (commonly at least eight) of seeing something before a person will act. In our case, we want them to act by looking at our website, or coming to church and seeing what a fabulous church community we have. It is for this reason that we are using the billboards, print ads, social media, web presence and more in an effort to draw people to our church. This won't happen overnight, but over the next year, we fully expect to see some payoff on our efforts.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ELLEN RAMBO (CHAIR), Mark Hiselman, Tracy Barrett, Ann Verhey-Henke, Ryan Munson, Terry Haley, Robin Myler, Diane O'Connell, Chris Vermeulen

The Christmas Pageant was a huge success with so many of our children being a part of it. Thank you parents for all of your assistance and having your children arrive in a timely manner at church. We even had all of the animals come into the church and stand by the manger without incident, which always is a relief! We hope you liked the addition of the video that was used at the start of the Christmas Eve service – we welcome your feedback.

Please join me in welcoming Rachel Dudley as our new permanent Director of Christian Education! Many of you already know Rachel, who has served as our Interim Director since August, and her husband, Mitchell. Rachel possesses the unique combination of attributes that the Search Committee was looking for: a solid theological background and faith, outstanding organizational skills, teaching experience, the ability to work well with a variety of people, and a vision for our Christian Education program. Rachel has done an excellent job as the interim, and she is very enthusiastic to enhance and expand church school programming.



## VOLUNTEERS FOR ART FAIR NEEDED!

We at FCC of Ann Arbor have been given a tremendous opportunity to earn \$8,000 for the Youth Mission Trip! Many of you skip town during the Ann Arbor Art Fair (I know), but consider staying this year. The youth of our congregation and their families are being given the opportunity to be the trash and recycling team for the State Street Area Association which is the sponsor of one of the four art fairs in July. It can be a team-building fun job, and the reward is obvious. Also, we are being given the opportunity to host the Michigan Theater Hospitality Room for the artists during the fair. This involves a few hours of your time setting the provided continental breakfast in the morning and healthy snacks in the early afternoon. The Michigan Theater is air conditioned and a beautiful environment. Anyone in our congregation can do this. If we can fulfill the job spots for the trash/recycling and the Michigan Theater, we will earn the full amount. Please consider this opportunity. We absolutely need a commitment by the end of February. If we cannot recruit enough volunteers, the opportunity will be given to the other neighborhood churches.

Let's do it for our youth! For questions and additional information, or to volunteer, please contact Darcy or Nancy:

Darcy Crain  
darcy@fccannarbor.org  
(734) 926-0552 or

Nancy Sauve  
nancy@fccannarbor.org  
(734) 926-0560

# Check out our Small Groups!

*Mind & Spirit*  
(1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month)

*20/40*  
(Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.)



**TNS**  
(TUESDAYS AT 7 P.M.)



**Knight's Lunch Group**  
(4th Monday of each month)



**Text Breakfast**  
(Wednesdays @ 8:30 a.m.)

*Circle of Friends*

## Small groups—Text Breakfast

We gather informally with senior minister Bob Livingston every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Cup Café (4389 Jackson Road) for lively discussion. We discuss the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon, sharing our understanding, insights, and our questions. We wrap up our morning about 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays! Please join us.

## Small groups—Knight's Lunch Club

Please join us on the FOURTH Monday of the month for monthly lunch get-togethers with Bob Livingston and other FCC friends. This month, we are meeting on 26th of February at 11:30 a.m. at Knight's on Dexter Avenue. Our lunch gatherings are highly informal and lots of fun, with welcoming and wide-ranging conversations. Everyone is welcome! We hope you can join us!

## Small groups—Tuesday Night Series (TNS)

Please join us on Tuesday evenings as we continue our series on World Religions. We will be looking at Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism. We will complete this series on Tuesday, February 13, and recess until March 20 when we will resume our meetings with a new series. Rev. Bob Livingston takes the lead with this group. We meet on Tuesday nights in the Mayflower Room of the church from 7-8:30 p.m. Please come and join us if you can!

## Small groups—Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends met on Sunday, December 10th to review goals for the year. There was a discussion of how to handle meals and other support services that our friends may need. Gifts were distributed to our friends for delivery before Christmas. Thanks to Sara Eggleston for making the gifts this year. Liz Goodrich continues to provide the flower calendar so that the altar flowers can be taken to a friend after the Sunday service.

We continue to serve church members who are in retirement facilities or homebound. Rides to church are also available. Our group can also provide services to church members who are at home recovering from surgery or an illness or who need support for recent major life changes. Please let Mary Ann Marquardt know if you know any church member who may benefit from having a friend. She can be reached at 313-303-1989.

Our next meeting will be our annual luncheon at the Cottage Inn on Feb. 4th at 11:30 AM after church. We are always looking for new members to join our group.

## Small groups—Mind and Spirit Book Group

The Mind and Spirit Book Group is a community of women of all ages. We enjoy reading and sharing our life stories as a means of personal and spiritual growth. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. We began 2018 by reading “Living Buddha, Living Christ” by Thich Nhat Hahn. Please bring your own copy of the book. For further information, please contact Gail Haynes at [gehaynes@aol.com](mailto:gehaynes@aol.com).

## Small groups—20/40 Group

We are a group of people in our 20s through 40s who are interested in trekking through the terrain of young adulthood, relationships, parenting, grad school, and more in a faithful community setting. We are single, married, and parents, and we have a blast together.

We gather at church Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. Childcare is provided. On the last Wednesday of each month we meet at Wolverine Tap Room (2019 W. Stadium Blvd.) for trivia from 7-9 p.m. Questions? Please contact Darcy Crain.

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### *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.*

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608 E. William Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 662-1679



**FCC Office Hours**  
Monday—Friday  
9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Robert Livingston  
Senior Minister  
734-926-0554  
bob@fccannarbor.org

Darcy Crain  
Associate Minister  
734-926-0552  
darcy@fccannarbor.org

Rachel Dudley  
Director of CE  
734-926-0553  
rachel@fccannarbor.org

Nancy Sauve  
Bookkeeper  
734-926-0560  
nancy@fccannarbor.org

Renee Bovee  
Administrative Asst.  
734-926-0550  
renee@fccannarbor.org

*Whatever Your  
Story, You're  
Welcome Here*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall  
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace Service, Pilgrim Hall  
9:30 a.m. Communion Service, Douglas Memorial Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
(Church School during 10:00 a.m. worship service)  
11:00 a.m. Friendship Hour, Pilgrim Hall

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

- Feb. 2 9:00 a.m. Warming Shelter Begins (9 a.m.—3 p.m.)  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday through February
- Feb. 3 9:00 a.m. AGO\* Workshop (Sanctuary)
- Feb. 4 11:30 a.m. Circle of Friends Luncheon, Cottage Inn
- Feb. 6 11:45 a.m. Men's Luncheon, Knight's (Dexter Road)  
7:00 p.m. TNS (Mayflower Room)
- Feb. 7 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
10:15 a.m. Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room  
6:30 p.m. 20/40 Group, Meeting Room
- Feb. 11 11:15 a.m. Second Sunday Presentation (Mayflower Room)  
7:00 p.m. Healing Space (Mayflower Room)
- Feb. 12 6:15 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Mayflower Room)
- Feb. 13 12:00 p.m. CCC\*\* Fundraising Committee (Meeting Room)  
7:00 a.m. TNS (Mayflower Room) Last TNS until 3/20
- Feb. 14 ASH WEDNESDAY  
VALENTINE'S DAY  
8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
6:30 p.m. 20/40 Group (Mayflower Room)
- Feb. 18 11:00 a.m. CCC Congregation Meeting (Sanctuary)
- Feb. 19 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting (Mayflower Room)
- Feb. 20 12:00 p.m. CCC Fundraising Committee (Meeting Room)
- Feb. 21 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
10:45 a.m. Mind and Spirit Book Club (Mayflower Room)  
4:30 p.m. CCC Design Committee (Meeting Room)  
6:30 p.m. 20/40 Group (Meeting Room)
- Feb. 25 11:00 a.m. BOCE Meeting (Meeting Room)
- Feb. 26 11:30 a.m. Knight's Luncheon Group
- Feb. 28 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)  
7:00 p.m. 20/40 Group Trivia Night (Wolverine)

\* AGO: AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
\*\* CCC: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE