



The **First**
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor



Sunday, November 26, 2017

Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here.

*** Prayer of Invocation**
(In Unison) Loving God, we come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude. We come carrying heavy burdens and sighs of suffering. As you welcome us into your house, lift our burdens and receive our praise. Salt us with your grace and flavor us with your mercy. Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another and be strengthened to go forth in service to the world. In Jesus' name we pray together saying:

Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

*** Gloria Patri** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Sacrament of Baptism **Clara and James Denay**
Daughter and son of Keri Lee and Joseph Clifford Denay
(Children are invited downstairs with Chris Vermeulen to church school following the baptism)

Give, Share, Rejoice

Offertory Sentences **Rev. Bob Livingston**
and Offertory

Choral Anthem "Praise Him" James Nissen, Director of Music

*** Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*** Prayer of Dedication** **Rev. Darcy Crain**

We Grow in Our Faith

* Hymn of Preparation	“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”	Hymnal #325
Hebrew Readings	1 Thessalonians 5:13b-18 Ecclesiastes 2:4-11	Pew Bible Page 1077 Pew Bible Page 603
Sermon	“Blessed”	Rev. Darcy Crain
Solo	“Zion’s Walls”	Darren Fedewa, soloist
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Bob Livingston
Choral Response		

We Go Forth to Live and Serve

* Recessional Hymn	“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”	See Insert
Charge and Benediction		Rev. Darcy Crain
Choral Benediction	“God Be With You”	
* Postlude	“Suite Médiévale” (IV: Acclimations on an ancient Carolingian chant) Jean Langlais (1907-1991)	Timothy L. Huth, Organist

* Congregation Standing
(Please feel free to remain seated if standing is difficult for you.)

Following the service, please join us for our annual church decorating party! Child care is available. We will conclude our decorating with pizza and Christmas music.

"Praise Him"

Harvest Anthem

J.S. Bach

Arranged by J. Michael Diack

Dr. James Nissen, Director of Music

Rebecca Jones, piano accompanist

Praise him, praise the great Creator for his goodness, for his bounty showered upon us throughout the year. Praise him, snow and wind and rain; praise him, buds and blossoms fair; fruits and fields of golden grain; beasts of earth and birds of air. Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him; praise him, angels in the height. Sun and moon rejoice before him; praise him all ye stars of light

1 Thessalonians 5:13b-18

Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

I made great works; I built houses and planted vineyards for myself; I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house; I also had great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and of the provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and delights of the flesh, and many concubines.

So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

"Zion's Walls"

Aaron Copland

Darren Fedewa, soloist

Rebecca Jones, piano accompanist

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.

Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

- Welcome!** We are glad you joined us this Sunday and look forward to meeting and getting to know you. Please join us after the 10 a.m. service for refreshments and friendship upstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Please don't forget to visit our website at www.fccannarbor.org to learn more about our church.
- Sunday Worship** During our programming year (September through May), we offer our contemporary Change of Pace worship service in Pilgrim Hall at 9:00 a.m. There is a brief 15-minute communion service in our Douglas Memorial Chapel at 9:30 a.m. Our more traditional worship service is in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., and is normally followed by refreshments and friendship in Pilgrim Hall. Assisted listening devices are available for services held in our sanctuary.
- Childcare and Church School** Nursery care is available for children newborn to 4 years of age with screened and consistent childcare workers. If you'd like to keep your infant or child with you in worship, you are more than welcome to do so. Please feel free to move about during the service as is needed. Also, during the 10 a.m. service in our regular programming year, children and youth are invited to leave after our children's circle and attend their church school classes.
- Luncheon Group** These luncheon gatherings, hosted by Bob Livingston, meet monthly on the fourth Monday of each month (September through May). They are highly informal, with welcoming and wide-ranging conversations, with the hopeful result of the nourishment of both the mind and body. The luncheons are held at Knight's Restaurant on 2324 Dexter Avenue in Ann Arbor. Our next luncheon will be November 27.
- Tuesday Night Series (TNS)** The TNS group will recess for the holidays until a new series begins on Tuesday, January 9. More details will be included in the January Courier. Please come and join us then if you can!
- Text Breakfast** We gather with Bob Livingston every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Cup Café (4389 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor) for lively discussion. Our next breakfast is scheduled for November 29.
- Mind & Spirit Book Group** The Mind and Spirit Book Group is a community of women of all ages. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. Please contact Janet Chen at a2janetchen@gmail.com for additional information.
- 20/40** Our 20-, 30-, and 40- somethings meet on Wednesday evenings. Our next gathering will be November 29 for pub trivia at Wolverine.
- Beacon of Hope Mission Trip** This year, we are once again traveling to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia to do repair and rehab work on homes damaged by the floods that hit the White Sulphur Springs area in the summer of 2016. It is about an 8 hour drive from Ann Arbor. We will gather there on Sunday afternoon, April 8, and leave to return home to Ann Arbor on Saturday, April 14. We will be staying at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church this year, who are providing us space for meals, sleeping, and group activities. We regret to report that it was not possible to find a location that would allow youth under the age of 15 to participate despite many efforts to find something which would accommodate all ages.
- April 8-14, 2018**
- There will be a brief information meeting in the Douglas Memorial Chapel on Sunday, December 3, following the 10 a.m. worship service. If you are interested in attending the trip, or perhaps hearing more about the trip, please join us on December 3. Please contact Janet Allen at jchallen9713@gmail.com if you have any questions.
- We had a wonderful and productive experience last year in White Sulphur Springs and sincerely hope you will consider joining us for this year's trip! Please come and learn more about it on the 3rd.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. NO CHANGE OF PACE SERVICE
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Church Decorating Party
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Douglas Chapel
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall
11:15 a.m. Intergenerational Work Trip
Informational Meeting, Chapel

Due to the Men's Rotating Shelter, our December 3rd 9 a.m. Change of Pace service will be held in the Douglas Memorial Chapel. Continental Breakfast will be available in the Mayflower Room beginning at 8:45 a.m. Chapel Communion will still take place at 9:30 a.m. during the Change of Pace service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT FCC BAKE SALE

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Douglas Chapel
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
Special Music Performance
11:00 a.m. Advent Workshop, Pilgrim Hall
11:15 a.m. 2nd Sunday Presentation
7:00 p.m. Healing Space, Pilgrim Hall
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TODAY IN CHURCH SCHOOL

Infants and preschoolers are invited downstairs to church school before the service.

Children (K-12) are invited to church school after children's circle.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Nov. 26 9:00 a.m. NO 9 a.m. CHANGE OF PACE
9:15 a.m. Chapel Communion
10:00 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary Worship
11:00 a.m. Church Decorating
Nov. 27 MEN'S ROTATING SHELTER BEGINS
11:30 a.m. Knight's Luncheon Group
Nov. 29 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
7:00 p.m. 20/40 Group Trivia (Wolverine)
Dec. 3 9:00 a.m. Change of Pace with Communion
Douglas Memorial Chapel
11:15 a.m. Intergenerational Work Trip
Informational Meeting, Chapel
Dec. 5 7:20 a.m. Congregator's Trip to Chicago
11:45 a.m. Men's Luncheon Knight's
Dec. 6 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
6:30 p.m. 20/40 Group (Meeting Room)
Dec. 8 5:00 p.m. Parent's Night Out
Dec. 9 11:00 a.m. JH/SH Bell Ringing Nickels Arcade
Dec. 10 FCC Bake Sale
10:00 a.m. Special Music Presentation
11:00 a.m. Advent Workshop
11:15 a.m. Second Sunday Presentation
7:00 p.m. Healing Space, Pilgrim Hall
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STAFF

Senior Minister	Robert K. Livingston (ext. 554)
Associate Minister	Darcy A. Crain (ext. 552)
Minister Emeritus	Terry N. Smith
Minister Emerita	Dorothy Lenz
Interim Director of C.E.	Rachel Dudley (ext. 553)
Director of Music	James C. Nissen (ext. 555)
Music Worship Leader	Terry Farmer (ext. 557)
Director of Music Emeritus	Willis Patterson
Organist	Timothy L. Huth
Organist Emerita	Marilyn Mason
Pianist	Rebecca Jones
Hand Chimes	Cindy Bylsma
Bookkeeper	Nancy Sauve (ext. 560)
Administrative Assistant	Renee Bovee (ext. 550)
Wedding Coordinator	Betty Jahnke
Custodian	Steffen Gelletly
Sound/AV Techs	Russ Wilcox-Cline, Brandon Bovee, Greg Eggleston

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