

# Congregational Courier

## THOUGHTS FROM DARCY CRAIN SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

I'm writing this from the pews of our sanctuary. I love coming in here during the weekday to pray or think or write. Especially on dreary cloudy days like this one. It's dark. Not pitch dark like Maundy Thursday, but still, dark. The blue colors from the stained glass windows are as brilliant as ever in this diminished light. I have a favorite pew for these kinds of days. Choir side, about 2/3 of the way back, I nestle in against one of the dividers. Sometimes sitting in the pews as a worshiper helps check my perspective. None of us started in pulpits, we started in pews.



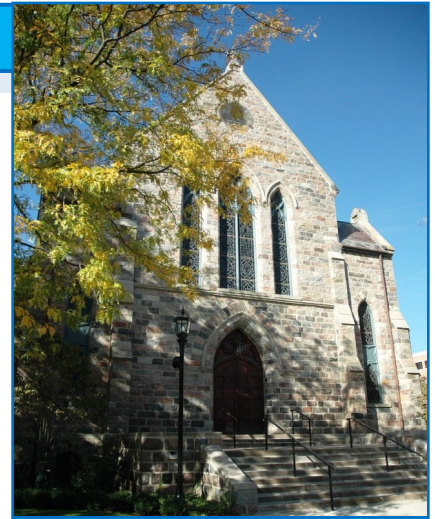
From the pews, I first learned to fold my hands in prayer. I learned it was not ok to eat the cheerios I snuck in my pockets during the Lord's Prayer and that most families sat in the same pews week in and week out. I learned that God was in music and in Bible Study and in Sunday School and even at church camp where the pews were crude wooden benches in a semi-circle around a cross. From the pews, we come with our questions and our awe. We come seeking community and solitude at the same time, and church is one of the few places that fulfills such a contradictory order. We come to be held by God, a sensation heightened by my current nestling into this divider.

In the next month this sanctuary will feel more like a sweatbox in the summer months, but right now, it's perfect. Summer is a time when we take a break from our routine. Many use it as a time of renewal or rest. May you find your own spiritual safe place to nestle into and make the time to pray and reflect.

The work of faith requires awareness and consciousness. Life rewards us for going through the motions and checking off the boxes and keeping everything status quo. Our faith tells us that life is rarely that predictable and that God works through every hiccup, every misstep, every curveball that comes our way. In taking the time to root our feet in prayer, in reflection, in pausing to take stock of where we have come and where we are going.

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*Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here*



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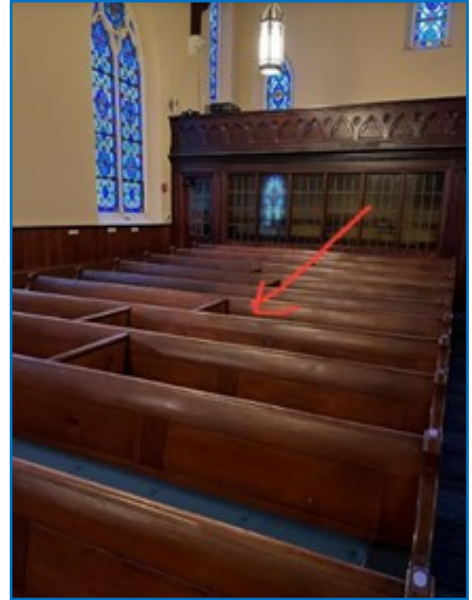
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I would've missed the brilliant blue of the windows. I would've missed connecting with the innocence and wonder of my early years of faith. My inbox may have been a bit more empty, but my aptitude for gratitude, and wonder, and openness to what God is speaking to me would have been empty too.

This summer, make the time to refill your spiritual cup. Worship with us, pray, walk, and wonder. We are blessed to have three clergy on our staff allowing this summer to be a time where all of us, clergy included, can slow down the pace and reconnect with our creator, our creation, and our call in the world. Nestle in my friends, and may the spirit of the living God fall afresh on us all.



Rev. Dr. Darcy Crain  
Senior Minister



## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES CLASS OF 2024



"Go make your big beautiful dent, and as you do so, come down on the side of boldness. If you err, may it be for too much audacity and not too little. For you really are enough. You have untold strengths and resources inside. You have your glorious self."

~ Sue Monk Kidd.

### Advanced Degrees

Kelly Creal  
Jennifer German

### College Students

Thomas Armand Weiss  
Christine Martinez  
Olivia Olmsted

### High School Students

Nigel Makin  
Wei Wei Poortinga  
Thomas Reed  
Charlie Eggleston  
Helena Myler  
Eric Overdier

LILY TINKER FORTEL  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Summer is underway! What a delightful time of year it is!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
**FCC SUMMER 2024**  
**YOUTH EVENTS**

- JUNE 17-20 HS SERVICE TRIP DETROIT
- JUN 19 MS YOUTH 6-8 PM
- JUL 17 MS/HS YOUTH 3-7 PM - ART FAIR
- AUG 2 MS/HS YOUTH 8PM - ?? @FCC
- AUG 14 MS/HS YOUTH 6-8PM

DETAILS FORTHCOMING VIA EMAIL

Family fun nights are scheduled for June 7 and August 2 (see page 12). We're planning several events for Middle and High School Youth. (see pages 11 and 12) We're rejuvenating Theology on Tap. (see page 12) Please let me know if this is something that would interest you.



Of course, this time of year wouldn't be complete without lots of thank yous and recognitions! We thank our Board of Christian

Education members, FCC Kidz teachers, childcare providers and youth leaders! We're grateful for our confirmands and their mentors. And, of course, we celebrate FCC's 2024 graduates! (see page 2) As classes conclude, celebrations continue, and getaways approach, we wish you a wonderful, refreshing summer.

Rev. Lily Tinker Fortel  
Associate Minister

**THANK YOU**  
2024 FCC Kidz/Youth  
Teachers, Childcare Providers, and Youth Leaders!

<u>BOCE</u>	Ryan B.	Val T.	Robin M.
Eric N.	Lily E.	Kristin O.	Nancy V.
Ashley E.	Ella H.	Joan B.	Marta S.
Abby V.	Riley H.	Patrick H.	Bella P.
Isaac W.	Helena M.	Jeff J.	<u>Youth Leaders</u>
Kristin B.	Zane M.	Colleen C.	Christine M.
Marina B.	Emma W.	Pam D.	Eric O.
<u>Childcare</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	Suzanne P.	
Ella B.	All BOCE	Tracy S.	

You make the world more bright!



*Special Announcement*

During worship on Sunday, July 14, we shared the news that Lily is pregnant! Lily and Steve are expecting mid-December. We're all so excited about this joyful news. Stay tuned for more information about how we'll celebrate as a community.

*Congratulations Lily ~and~ Steve!*



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## LILY TINKER FORTEL ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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### Confirmation 2024



Our five amazing confirmands: Brody, Dexter, Alex, Kendall, Amber

Special thanks to our outstanding Confirmation Mentors: Lou Candiotti, Rick Reid, Charlene and Jim McNamara, Darcy Crain, and Robbie Sawitski, and to our Confirmation Co-leader, Christine Martinez.

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR ROBBIE SAWITSKI

Dear Friends,

I find that simply apologizing for the very tardy arrival of our Summer Courier does not sit well with me, so I will offer the only explanation I have. Sometime in March, I began feeling ill. I will not go into too much detail, but I will say I was physically struggling. I kept feeling worse while putting the Annual Report together, and around mid-May, still in the throes of the report, I realized I would be late with the Courier. Our wonderful Darcy, of course, offered me so much grace, and even told me, 'Robbie, if you say there won't be a Summer Courier this year, that's okay by me.' Believe me, I thought about it! We discussed the time constraints around Annual Report and Summer Courier being too difficult to accomplish simultaneously, and came up with a solution. The Annual Report will be a staff-assumed task, freeing me up to focus on our Summer Edition much earlier. Thank you, church family, as well, for your grace, and especially your understanding. I would like to share with you that I am still not quite up-to-snuff, but am feeling much better than I was. Some appointments and procedures coming up that I am looking forward to, but nothing serious to worry about, I promise. I really do appreciate knowing that whatever my story, I'm welcome here.

Just wanted to let everyone know I'm going through a lot right now.



**MARINA BAKER**  
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

These last few months have flown by and it is hard to believe that we are almost done with another program year in FCC Kidz & Youth. The past year was full of so much joy and I feel blessed to have gotten to be a part of it!



I want to thank the following people for giving their time and care this year to help with the youngest members of our congregation:

Kristin Bartlett	Ella Bentley	Ryan Bentley	Joan Brush	Colleen Creal
Pam Dabbs	Lily Eggleston	Ashley El-Asri	Patrick Haley	Ella Hall
Riley Howe	Jeff Joy	Christine Martinez	Helena Myler	Robin Myler
Zane Myler	Eric Nicholson	Kristin Olmstead	Eric Overdier	Suzanne Price
Bella Puente	Colette Riggs	Marta Skiba	Tracy Swinburn	Val Towery
Abby Vermeulen	Chris Vermeulen	Nancy Vermeulen	Isaac Williamson	

The work I get to do for our children and youth at FCC would be impossible without these amazing individuals, and I am incredibly grateful for them all! For anyone who enjoys working with youth, we are always looking for more volunteers to help out in FCC Kidz & Youth!

In March, we had our first "First Friday Family Fun Night" at FCC featuring Mario Kart, games, ice cream, and lots of fun! One thing I am excited for this summer is that we will be having 2 more fun nights on the first Fridays of June and August. Please watch upcoming FCC emails for details.

Summer is almost here! I can't wait to see what surprises this season has in store, and I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer!

Marina Baker  
 Children's Ministry Coordinator



## NANCY SAUVE CONGREGATIONAL LIAISON

The Congregational Liaison is a part-time specialty position whose purpose is to bridge the needs of the staff and the congregation. In the first year of this new position at FCC I have enjoyed engaging with staff and lay members and providing special support to the Board of Deacons. In addition, I served as lead staff to the new member process and hosted two successful information sessions and subsequent new member Sundays. Working closely with staff during weekly meetings and running point on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Center has been a joy and allowed me to remain engaged with my church community. In addition to the various duties and responsibilities within the scope of the position I am happy to serve as staff lead with Circle of Friends.



My joys for this year include:

- Having the perfect "retirement"
- Becoming a covenant member of FCC

Some of my goals for next year are:

- Engage new members in church events
- Seeing a robust Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends serves to support our members and friends of the congregation that are homebound or in care facilities. We are grateful for the leadership of Marilyn McCallum and Marta Skiba for matching volunteers with Circle Friends and for the tireless efforts of Gail Haynes for coordinating members to take the Sunday flowers to our Circle Friends. At present we have 15 volunteers visiting and bringing flowers to 17 of our Circle Friends. We are also working toward coordinating meals for those who could use the short term support. If this is a ministry that you would like to be a part of, please contact me, [nancy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:nancy@fccannarbor.org)

Wishing you all the best with God's blessing,

Nancy Sauve





## FCC CORE VALUES STORIES



Some of our newest members volunteering to set up Easter Breakfast! We just wanted to take a moment to shine our Volunteer Spotlight on our new members and AFC, and extend our heartfelt appreciation for their fantastic work. They went above and beyond to make this year's Easter celebrations extraordinary. We're grateful for the time and effort they put into everything—from prepping food in the kitchen to setting up tables for Easter breakfast. We're so lucky to have such wonderful people in our community.

*Thank you all so much!*



The FCC Office does not know how it would get all the various mailings done without the Mailing Assembly Crew. We are so grateful for Jane, Nancy, Wanda, and Pat for their invaluable contribution and dedication ensuring the 2024 Stewardship mailing was delivered on time. Unfortunately, Pat left before Lily took the photo, so she didn't get in, but we are thankful, even without photographic proof!

*You ladies are awesome!*

Marilyn McCallum graciously donated a delicious meal for a member of our congregation as part of our new meal ministry, Circle of Friends. You, too, can offer a meal to a member in need in lieu of flowers on a Sunday morning.

*Thank you, Marilyn, for caring for others and making them feel loved.*

If you want to do something similar, join Circle of Friends by contacting Nancy Sauve.



The Easter Giving Tree volunteers have genuinely outdone themselves! We want to take this opportunity to thank Nikki, Connie, Suzanne, and Jane for setting up the Missions & Outreach Easter Giving Tree, as well as Greg and Fred, who took the time to deliver all the donations from the drive, which concluded Easter

Sunday. Also, many thanks to all of you who donated essential household items to JFS. Your kindness and generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of refugees, as they resettle in Washtenaw County.



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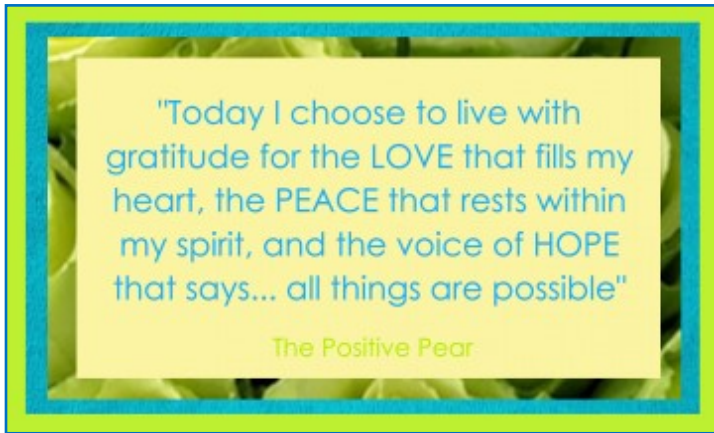
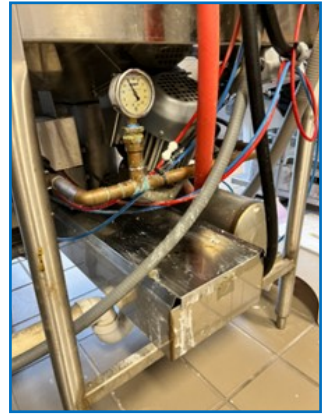
## FCC CORE VALUES STORIES

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Our dear old church always has something that needs addressing. Service calls as we all know, can be very expensive, and not always an anticipated budget expense. How wonderful to have a church member with time and talents to offer to fix one of our essential FCC machines.

Bill Winchester came in and fixed the Pilgrim Hall dishwasher's pressure gauge, pipe leak, and leaking detergent tube.

*Thank you, Bill, for coming in and sharing your skills!*



Friday, March 22 – Bob Adams Memorial Service

Robbie here...I want to mention how our church came together for a beloved family of the church. As point person, I needed many hands to welcome over 250 guests for Bob Adams memorial service. My first email to Time and Talent volunteers resulted in about 20% of the people needed. My second email went out to all the people I know, who know me, regardless of their offering to volunteer or not. Within 2 hours, all slots on my list filled,

with extra coming in. I had to email all that everything is now covered! I have done this before, and have always been blessed with many generous responses.

It was the smoothest event I have ever overseen, and it is all because of the volunteers who generously stepped up with the food that was requested, helped put the food together the day before, and were present the next day for serving and clean-up. While preparing items for the Bob Adams service, we also prepared enough to cover an additional memorial service on Sunday. We do great work when we work together! I just love FCC!

*My sincere thanks to the Time and Talent folks, and to the 'Robbie's Peeps' that helped provide this service!*

### FCC CORE VALUES

**Compassion**—We are a deeply caring faith community, demonstrating God's universal love and mutual respect.

**Joy and Positivity**—We are a faith community that faces life with open-mindedness, positivity, and a generous spirit.

**Integrity**—We are a faith community that builds trust through a commitment to authenticity and guided by the humility of Christ.

**Courage**—We are a faith community committed to persevere and grow in the midst of challenges and opportunities.

**Inclusive**—Whatever your story, we accept you as you are, and believe God's doors are open to all!



## JUNE IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

### Annual Meeting

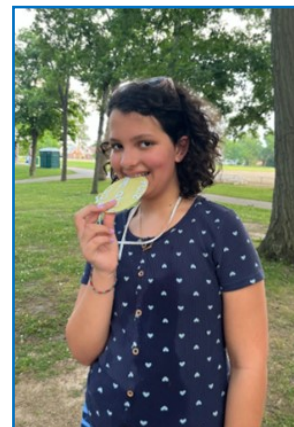
The purpose of The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor's Annual Meeting is the presentation of the annual reports, the election of officers, and discussion of other appropriate business. Our Service Spotlight is shining on our Church Council and the Board of Trustees! We're grateful to the chairs of boards and committees, our council officers, and all who worked so hard to orchestrate a seamless Annual Meeting! Your consistent dedication and leadership throughout the year makes FCC a remarkable place! All items up for consideration at Sunday's annual meeting, including FCC's 2024-2025 budget, and our slate of nominees for boards and committees, passed by unanimous vote of members gathered! If you have not yet picked up a copy, stop by the Smith Welcome Center for your 2023-2024 Annual Report. Please remember one per family. If we run out of copies and you would like one, please sign the sheet at the Smith Welcome Center desk so we can order more. Thank you!



Leader Commissioning at Annual Meeting

### Middle School Youth Field Day

FCC Middle School Youth braved the heat for a Wednesday evening field day. Pizza, games, popsicles, and friends made for a great time. Thanks to Christine, and congrats to our gold medal winners!



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# JUNE IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

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## All-Church Father's Day Potluck and Mini Ice Cream Social

FCC friends gathered on Sunday, June 16th, on the FCC Grounds for our annual All-Church Picnic and Potluck. We had fun games, a bounce house, and great food! The weather was perfect, and everyone in attendance had a great time.



Good Times



THE UNITED STATES  
**AIR FORCE BAND**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE OFFICIAL CHORUS OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

**SINGING SERGEANTS**  
FREE CONCERT



*Psalm 133:1:*

*"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"*



## JULY / AUGUST EVENTS

FCC's Board of Christian Education

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Help support our growing FCC Kidz program by volunteering as a teaching assistant or lobby attendant!

Email Marina ([marina@fccannarbor.org](mailto:marina@fccannarbor.org)).



### FCC's Board of Education needs Assistance with FCC Kidz Programing

If you're interested in signing up to be an FCC Kidz lobby attendant, please email Marina at [marina@fccannarbor.org](mailto:marina@fccannarbor.org). This is a straightforward job; you can read a book, knit, or watch the service via live stream while down there.

thank you!

### FCC Middle and High School Youth

July 17, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

FCC invites middle and high schoolers to the 2024 Ann Arbor Art Fair for service, fun, and fellowship! Join us Wednesday, July 17, from 3 to 7 p.m. at FCC. Dinner provided.

Please email Lily at [lily@fccannarbor.org](mailto:lily@fccannarbor.org) with t-shirt sizes and any allergies/dietary restrictions.

FCC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

### ART FAIR SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

SERVICE

GAMES AND CRAFTS



WED. JULY 17 | 3-7PM

EMAIL LILY WITH SHIRT SIZES AND ANY ALLERGIES/FOOD RESTRICTIONS

[lily@fccannarbor.org](mailto:lily@fccannarbor.org)

### Annual Ann Arbor Art Fair Mission Trips Fundraising Events Hospitality Station and R & R (rubbish & recycle)

July 18 - July 20, 2024

Your R&R Leaders are so very proud of, and grateful for the group of volunteers who show up each year, and for some reason keep coming back, once they've tried it. You see, in all honesty, yes, it is challenging. But, it's for an amazing cause (Mission Trips), and also is a remarkably fun time, full of laughter, camaraderie, sharing our stories, and growing new friendships, as well as deepening others. We look at it as a mini-

mission trip. Our Sign-up Genius is already up and running. QR code and Links can be found on page 12. For more information or help signing up, please email Chris at [cnverm@aol.com](mailto:cnverm@aol.com).



Good Times





## JULY / AUGUST EVENTS



### The R & R Team Wants YOU! (AFC)

July 18 - July 20, 2024

Here are the links to the 2024 SignUpGenius for Art Fair. The direct links are below, and the QR code has a hyperlink too. Any questions, please email Chris at [cnverm@aol.com](mailto:cnverm@aol.com).

Direct Link for Hospitality sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AAEA62AA2F94-fccart4>

Direct Link for R & R sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AAEA62AA2F94-fccart5>



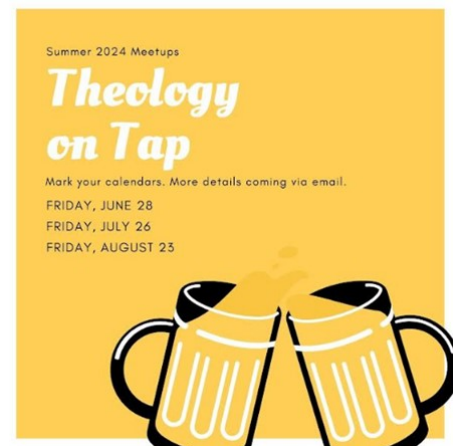
### Theology on Tap (Small Groups)

July 26, 6:00 p.m. and August 23, 6:30 p.m.

Join FCC friends for the first Theology on Tap of the summer, on July 26th, at 6:00 p.m., at Sam Hill, 5827 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. Then, on August 23rd, at 6:30 p.m., we will go see Terry Farmer and the band at Music in the Park, in Dexter, MI.

Please look to emails for more information as the dates approach. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jared at [office@fccannarbor.org](mailto:office@fccannarbor.org).

We hope to see you there!



### Family Fun Night (BOCE)

August 2, 6:00 p.m.

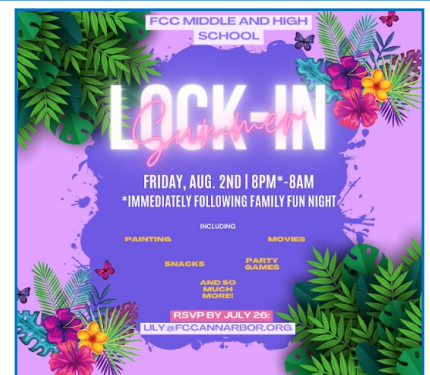
Don't miss out on Family Fun Night! FCC members of all ages are invited on August 2nd, at 6:00 p.m., for a fun-filled evening of pizza, games, and ice cream sundaes. Bring your own beverages and board games to share. To help cover costs, we suggest a \$5 donation for pizza. Please email Marina with any questions at [marina@fccannarbor.org](mailto:marina@fccannarbor.org). We hope to see you there!

### Middle and High School Youth Lock-in

August 2, 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Immediately following Family Fun Night on Friday, August 2nd, all FCC Middle and High school students are invited to join us for a lock-in! We will enjoy games, food, fellowship, and a service opportunity together at FCC.

Please RSVP to Lily by July 26 [lily@fccannarbor.org](mailto:lily@fccannarbor.org).



## FCC AND OUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION



### Thanks to all who continue to donate to the Food Pantry, located in the Smith Welcome Center

Donations are taken weekly to the pantry at Hope Clinic where there is high demand. Hope offers the largest food program in the county offering an evening hot meal, fresh produce at the farm stand, walk up emergency bags, home delivery for those without transportation and the food pantry where our donations go.



Where does all the rest of the food come from? Donations come from many other churches, schools and businesses in our community. Hope is also part of the Food Gatherers system, which purchases high demand items and utilizes gov-



ernmental resources such as the USDA. There is also an extensive food rescue program in our area. This food, soon to be outdated, comes from local food retailers, food wholesalers and local farmers. Ever wonder where multiple day old bread goes? Luckily in our area, it goes onto the shelves at local pantries.

**Please consider donating these items this summer to go with bread, rolls and tortillas!**

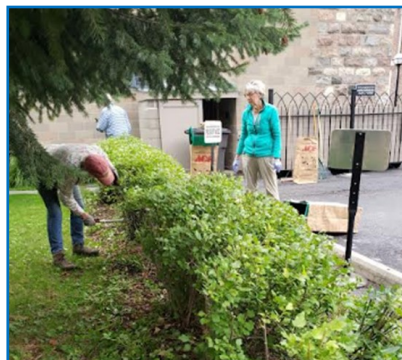
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Spaghetti Sause and Pasta
- Canned beans

### FCC Gardening Angels Above and Beyond the Call

Jared, Jean Cares, Margaret and Rick Anderson, Jane DeLancey, and Dave Steiner trimmed hedges and pulled weeds in preparation for art fair. We get a lot of foot



traffic around our historic grounds, and we are all very grateful for these angels and the work



they did to put our best foot forward as a shining presence in our community.







### Sunday Parking Still Free; Change to Parking in Structures Effective June 2, 2024

Please read the new information regarding Sunday parking from the State Street District below.

Lower structure and lot gate arms are available on Sundays. Parking will still be accessible and free on Sundays, but the gates will be down, and parking patrons must pull a ticket to enter the facility. When exiting, parking patrons will insert their parking ticket into the in-lane exit equipment, and the gate will go up.

Parkers who lose their ticket can use the same procedure as during the week: push the call button on the in-lane equipment and speak with staff for assistance. Lost ticket charges will be waived for the first few months.

### AFC Beat the Winter Blues Potluck February 25

Judging from all the smiles, the Beat the Winter Blues potluck did exactly what it set out to do. We had a crowd as big as some of our Kick-off Sundays and Annual All-church Picnics. The date is mid-way between our two big parties, and, apparently, everyone was happy to get out of the house, and spend some quality time in community with each other. Because of its great success, AFC will do this every February. It's something to look forward to when days get dark early, and the cold winds of winter are blowing.



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FCC AND OUR COMMUNITY  
NEWS AND INFORMATION

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AFC Beat the Winter Blues Potluck



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## FCC AND OUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION



### Anniversary Sunday March 17

We celebrated FCC's 177th Anniversary by marking the occasion in both worship services, and celebrating together in Pilgrim Hall. We honored member anniversaries, while we gathered for food and fellowship. All 50 year members receive a framed Shurtliff Color print... something to aspire to .



### Palm Sunday Special Music Presentation March 24, 10:00 a.m.

The FCC Chancel Choir and Orchestra presented an outstanding and memorable offering of *Illuminare*, by Elaine Hagenberg, her first extended work, consisting of five-movements for SATB choir.

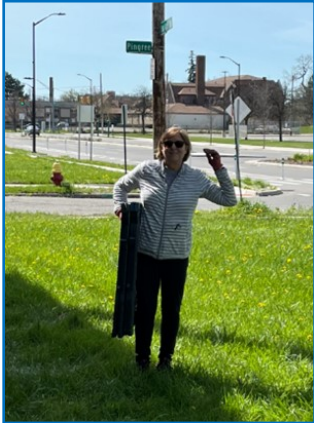


All in attendance said this was the best musical offering they'd ever heard before at FCC.



## FCC AND OUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

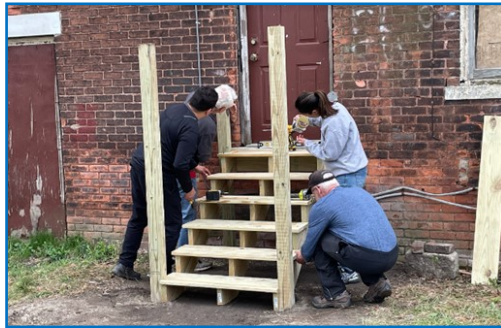
### Intergenerational Mission Trip 2024



What a fantastic team of hardworking volunteers we had in Detroit! We want to thank all of you for dedicating your time and effort to make a difference. Your commitment represents what FCC stands for, and we are truly grateful. We also want to give a special thanks to the crew at FCC, who spent a lot of time ensuring that our hardworking volunteers were fed every night. Everyone worked tirelessly to make this mission trip successful.



*Thank you so much!*



### New Member Sunday April 21

*welcome*



Here are eight of our new members with Council Chair Ellen Rambo (far right). Missing is Jillian Diwan, who was welcomed during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. A big thank you to all the fantastic folks who have joined us. We are super thrilled and can't wait to grow with you all.

*Please be sure to welcome them, and introduce yourself!*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship our spirit finds is like to that above.  
Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one—our comforts and our cares.*



## FCC AND OUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

### Confirmation Sunday

May 5

In Christian denominations that practice infant baptism, confirmation is the sealing of the covenant created in baptism. Those confirmed are confirmands. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit", and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. The light of the Spirit shines on the confirmands and mentors. Thank you to the confirmands for going through the journey to become members and grow spiritually, and special thanks to the mentors who took the time to guide these confirmands on their journey. Your commitment to guiding new confirmands each year is important to the life and growth of the church.



### FCC for Family Camp

May 17-19

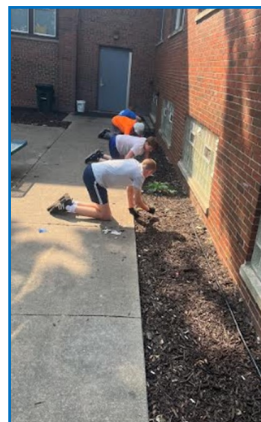


Thirty-six members of FCC had a wonderful time at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer MI. It was, indeed, a fun-filled weekend getaway, where we created unforgettable memories with FCC friends!



### Youth Mission Trip - Detroit, MI, June 17-20

Our High School youth and a few of our Youth Group grads worked with victims of the flood during the first two days, partnering with the same organization the adults did in April, "After the Storm." The second two days we served with Cass Community, assembling bunk beds and carrying them up to the 3rd floor of the new Fox Family Center, and helping prepare their main building for necessary inspections. It was an honor to work and paint alongside of Executive Director Faith Fowler, and to lead another youth work trip with our beloved Pete "Tank" Tsangaris!



**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**CHRIS VERMEULEN, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY**

**Elected Positions**

Church Council Chair: Ellen Rambo  
Church Council Vice-Chair: Val Towery  
Secretary: Chris Vermeulen  
Treasurer: Dave Beck  
Clerk: Gae Miller  
Historian: Betty Bishop

**Remaining Positions Filled by Board and Committee Positions**

Board of Deacons Chair: Jennifer Santi  
Board of Trustees Chair: Lou Candiotti  
Board of Christian Education Chair: Eric Nicholson  
Missions and Outreach Committee Chair: Suzanne Price  
Music Committee Chair: Paul Fossum  
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs: Rick Muhs and Kristy Stoneburner  
Activities and Fellowship Committee Chair: Robbie Sawitski  
Contemporary Issues Committee Chair: Sara Holmes  
Minister: Darcy Crain, Lily Tinker Fortel, Eric Hausman

**Council Retreat**

Planning a retreat for August 19. Time will be spent planning for the upcoming program year and sharing our vision for future ministry.

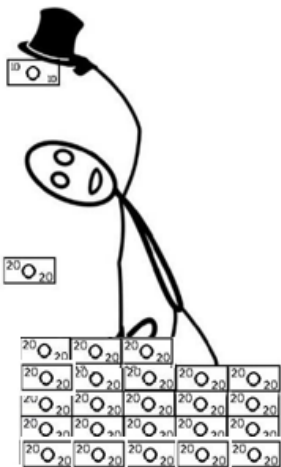
**Contact Information**

Feel free to contact any member of the Church Council with questions, comments, or concerns. We appreciate your feedback on the activities of the Church.

**Next Scheduled Meetings**  
August 19, 2024  
September 16, 2024  
October 21, 2024



**RAISE RIGHT - SCRIP CORNER**  
**CHRIS VERMEULEN**



Since July 1, 2023, we raised \$475.00 using Scrip (reloadable gift cards and e-gift certificates). This is a combination of 3 families making on-line orders and the big Congregation order on November 7. You can help us raise more money for Sr. High and Intergenerational work-trips by using Scrip. Scrip gives the church a percentage of the amount you purchase with Scrip. I would recommend starting with e-gift certificates for one or two places that you shop regularly. You can look at the listing at [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raise-right.com). To get Scrip you will need to create an account.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please contact Chris Vermeulen at [cverm@aol.com](mailto:cverm@aol.com).

*Thank You For Your Support!*



## HISTORIAN CORNER BETTY BISHOP

I am continuing with the article David Beck translated from a German newspaper published in Ann Arbor in 1894, which discussed the early history of The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. In the winter of 1860-61, the right to free speech came into question when Parker Pillsbury, a well-known proponent of slave emancipation, was supposed to speak in Ann Arbor. A mob gathered and threw stones at the speaker and congregation so the talk could not be given.



A month later the famous orator and abolitionist, Wendell Phillips came to Ann Arbor and needed a hall in which to speak. The Board of Directors of FCC was approached about his using their original First Church. After a long debate, a church elder stood and said "Brothers, this building was dedicated to Almighty God, and if it must be razed to the ground, let it be done if it will help free speech and the noble cause of free humanity. I request that the church be given for use to Wendell Phillips". The motion was approved unanimously. University students became aware that the speaker might be attacked by a mob. The feeling of war had gripped everyone. The students formed a group and decided to attend en-masse and nip any rebellion in the bud. They were prepared for a fight but that did not happen. The church was filled to capacity and outside was the enraged mob. The success of the great speaker's inspiring words was shown by the significant enlistment into the Union Army.

The rest of the newspaper article dealt with the founding of Zion Lutheran Church and their early years in the old First Church which FCC had sold to the Zion Lutheran Society when they moved in 1876 to the Stone Church where FCC remains in 2024. Of course, the building has been significantly remodeled since 1876. Zion Lutheran remained in the First Church building until they built a new church in 1894.

## MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE TREVOR TOWERY

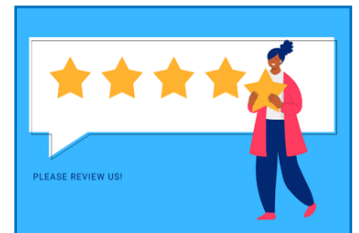
### Help Us Spread the Word About FCC!



Please leave FCC a Google review sharing what you love most about FCC. These reviews are left by Google account and Gmail users, so if that describes your email and cloud platform, please help us out! We currently have 28 reviews, but we would love to have over 50! Positive reviews help increase our online visibility and spread the word about FCC to people looking for a church in the area.

For our digital readers, please copy and paste the link below into your browser, and share what you love most about FCC:

<https://g.page/r/CQpBmVRDYHEcEBM/review>



*Thank you!*

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### SUZANNE PRICE, CHAIR

Caring for our neighbors in Washtenaw County, Detroit, the nation, and internationally is our committee's charge. This year, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our committee awarded grants to 14 local non-profit organizations with awards ranging from \$500 to \$6,000. Our Life Happens Grants provided donations in amounts from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to the following organizations: the American Red Cross for relief due to national weather disasters; to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund; to Doctors without Borders in Israel and Gaza; to Against Malaria for international health aid, and \$256 in bus tokens for several local non-profits. With the church budget of \$34,000 and an additional \$2,150 in gifts to Missions and Outreach from individual church members, FCC has provided funds to support a variety of critical needs.

In March, the proceeds to FCC from the Measure-to-Measure Choir Concert, done in collaboration with First United Methodist Church, allowed for a \$1,600 donation to the International Rescue Fund in Ukraine. We thank the choirs, musicians, and the choir directors for this substantial gift used for world humanitarian aid.

In March our church members and friends stepped up to support the Easter Giving Tree with donations of household goods worth an estimated \$2,500 and monetary donations of \$1928, used to outfit apartments for refugees being resettled this spring and summer by Jewish Family Services. This was a record amount for the Easter drive and JFS expressed their delight and gratitude for the quality and quantity of goods they received from us. Mission and Outreach thanks church member Jane Thomson for her significant work in designing the item tags and organizing the bulletin board display.

We thank Gayle Haynes for delivering weekly to the Hope Clinic Pantry the donated food brought to FCC. By March 2024, Gail estimated that FCC members and friends donated food and personal or household supplies worth \$2,500.

We thank Helen Zylman and David Seaman, as well as Sheryl Kurze for regularly taking clothing brought to church for donation to House by the Side of the Road in Ann Arbor. Clothes are given away free at HBSR. Many local non-profits take clients there and it provides much needed clothing to those seeking wardrobe items.

In May, FCC had its first Clothing Closet drive to collect used business clothing for college students and others. The clothes went to student clothing closets that exist at University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and at Michigan State University. We thank church member Laura Lamps for proposing and initiating this project. Thanks to our congregation, the drive was a phenomenal success with hundreds of items donated for men and women. In addition, we thank Colleen Creal and her recently graduated son and daughter for dramatizing roles in a video to promote this project. Thank you to Jared Peterson, the FCC office manager and tech production staff member, for producing the video. A special thanks to Jane Pettit and Eric Overdier, in addition to M&O Committee members for their participation in collecting the clothes. Thanks for your clothing contributions, church!

This July we are asking for help in supporting the Community Action Network with the collection of backpacks and school supplies for their students. Our FCC folks rise to meet this need every year and we antici-

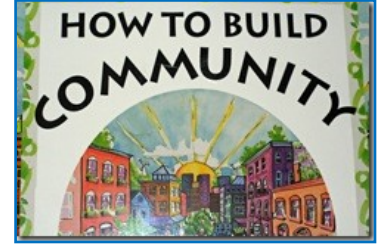
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## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE SUZANNE PRICE, CHAIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

pate generous participation again this year. Like last year, CAN will have a wish list on Amazon. Church members can purchase from the list and items will ship directly to CAN. Alternatively, members can donate to FCC with a specification that the funds are for CAN Supplies. Please watch the Sunday bulletins and FCC emails for the link to make a donation. In early August, consider joining us for packing the supplies into the backpacks. It was a lot of fun to work for one morning as the FCC team on this project last year.



At the close of this church year, a shout-out goes to our committee members for their careful research on how best to spend the church funds to help in the community and the world. Special thanks to committee members Greg and Mary Jackson for their commitment with the JFS refugee donations and to Connie Nagle for her leadership with the CAN Christmas Wish Tree and the CAN Back To School drive.

May everyone have a good mix of relaxation and fun experiences this summer!

## GFS – GORRDON FOOD SERVICES POINTS PROGRAM ROBBIE SAWITSKI



**Do you ever shop at GFS? Want to know how you can help FCC?**

I went to GFS today for some of the supplies AFC will need for the volunteers to eat while working the R & R (Rubbish & Recycling ) fundraising event at the Ann Arbor Art Fair this week. The cashier was very friendly, and long story short, FCC can accrue points. We had \$83 available, and I was able to apply it to our supplies. That's \$83 more for the Mission Trips fund.

You can help by telling the cashier that your order is for FCC. Not only does FCC receive points, but your entire order is tax-exempt, which is a good deal when buying paper products, or any other taxable items. That's a win-win in my book.



**FCC Merchandise** (Marketing)  
**Online Store NOW OPEN**

Thanks to the efforts of our marketing committee led by Trevor Towery, we are excited to offer you FCC merchandise like this quarter zip Darcy is modeling for us. Feel free to reach out with any questions!

Check out the store here:



<https://merch.undergroundshirts.com/collections/first-congregational-church-of-ann-arbor> or visit our website; it is linked on the home page towards the bottom.

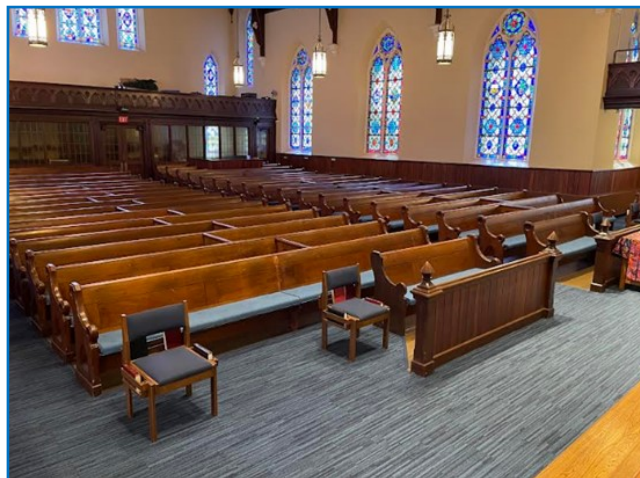
## BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE

JANET ALLEN, MEMBER

The Building and Grounds Committee continues to provide regular maintenance to the church inside and out. In addition to unexpected repairs and yearly maintenance, several larger projects are scheduled for this coming fiscal year.

### Sanctuary Wheelchair Seating

Four ADA compliant spaces were recently completed in the front of the sanctuary. Prior to this work, there were two noncompliant spaces. We were pleased that the expense was mostly labor as we had access to using shorter pews in the balcony and are using choir chairs for the companion seating (being recovered by pew cushion fabric to match). Two more spaces will be created near the back just forward of the sound booth on the center aisle providing our wheel chair using members and guests a choice of seating.



### Pilgrim Hall Windows Refurbishing

We are hiring Thompson Glass to refurbish our beautiful stain glass windows in Pilgrim Hall. The work will start this summer on the north side of the building (Memorial Garden side) and will continue next year with the south side to spread out the expense. This work includes cleaning, new caulk and paint on the outside and well as cleaning, replacement of some broken glass and regrouting some of the lead on the inside.

### Rebuilding the North Entrance Stairway

The outside leaning stairway to the Narthex on Thompson Street will be rebuilt by our stone and masonry specialists, Cashero Raycraft. The work will begin July 22.

### Sanctuary Wall Water Leak

Water Intrusion Issues are always very difficult and this has been no exception. We continue to investigate and consult with several experts to solve this frustrating issue so repairs can be made to the plaster as soon as we are confident the issue has been solved.

## ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

*Save  
the  
Date*

Everyone usually has more than enough activities to keep their summer jumping. It seems like a good time to remind everyone to make your calendars now, for the following anticipated events:

Sunday, September 8 - Kick-off Celebration and Ministry Festival

Sunday, September 29 - Dunc McCallum 3rd Annual Memorial Golf Scramble

Sunday, December 1 - All-church Decorating Party

Thursday, December 5 - Advent Women's Evening

Sunday, January 25, 2025 - All-church Undecorating Party

Sunday, February 2, 2025 - Beat the Winter Blues All-church Potluck

Watch for the September Kick-off Edition of the Courier and the church emails for details.

**GOOD  
TIMES**





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 Ann Arbor, MI 48107-7970  
 (734) 662-1679

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**Joshua Marzan**  
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**Nancy Sauve**  
 Congregation Liaison  
 nancy@fccannarbor.org

**SUNDAY IN-PERSON AND LIVESREAM WORSHIP  
 AND CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

9:50 - 11:15 a.m. Childcare available for Nursery and Preschool  
 9:30 a.m. Communion, Douglas Chapel  
 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary, and FCC Kidz Programming  
*Both worship services will continue to be livestreamed online*  
 11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

**JULY 2024**

Jul 17		Art Fair Set-up
Jul 18 - 20		Ann Arbor Art Fairs
Sunday, Jul 21	10:00 a.m.	COP Service, Pilgrim Hall
Jul 25	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Meeting, Mayflower Room
Jul 26	6:00 p.m.	Theology on Tap, Sam Hill Restaurant
Jul 31	11:00 a.m.	Pageant Work Day
<b>AUGUST 2024</b>		
Aug 2	6:00 p.m.	Family Fun Night,
	8:00 p.m.	MS and HS Youth Lock-in
Aug 7	9:00 a.m.	Marketing Meeting
Aug 12	1:00 p.m.	Kitchen Committee Meeting, Pilgrim Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Aug 14	6:00 p.m.	MS and HS Youth event
Sunday, Aug 18	10:00 a.m.	COP Service, Pilgrim Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Blessing of the Pets
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee Meeting, Meeting Room
	11:15 a.m.	AFC Meeting, Mayflower Room
Aug 19	TBD	Council Retreat and Meeting
Aug 21	9:00 a.m.	Pageant Work Day
Aug 22	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Meeting, Mayflower Room
Aug 23	6:00 p.m.	Theology on Tap, Music in the Park, Dexter, MI
Aug 25	11:15 a.m.	Board of Christian Education Meeting, Meeting Room
Aug 27	6:00 p.m.	MS and HS Youth event

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

Sep 2 LABOR DAY - FCC OFFICE CLOSED  
 Sep 4,11,18,25 9:00 a.m. Text Breakfast, Alpha Coney Diner

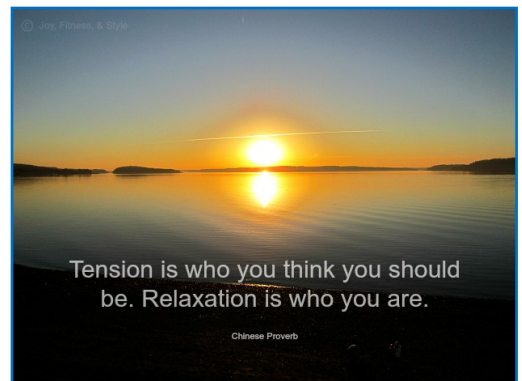
**MISCELLANEOUS ANN ARBOR EVENTS**

Thursdays in August Sonic Lunch  
 Aug 3 Ann Arbor Pride Festival, Main and Liberty  
 Sep 21 International Day of Peace @ Library Lot  
 Sep 28 Bicentennial Tree Planting  
 Oct 29 Downtown Trick or Treat  
*immediately following the Treat Parade on Main*  
 Dec 6 Moonlight Madness

**Mathew 11:28-30**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*Happy Summer to All!*



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