

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM DARCY CRAIN SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:

There are 4 August birthdays in my family; my twins, my brother, and myself. We all get together for dinner somewhere to celebrate the four birthdays and this year it was a restaurant called K-Pot in Novi. Maybe you've been. If you haven't, it's like Mongolian BBQ meets self-grill hibachi. In other words, you go to a restaurant and pay to basically cook your own food. You pick your own sauces (mine are always a disaster) and then order copious amounts of various meat that is brought to the table raw. You then use the little grills embedded in your table to cook them yourself to your liking. Did I mention already that you pay to cook your own food at this restaurant? In any case, it is a fun family dinner, and no one ever leaves hungry.

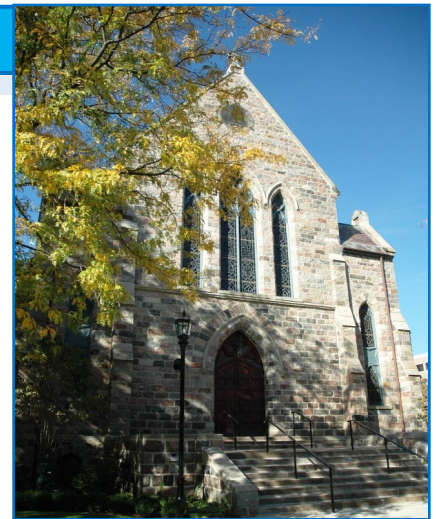


My sons tried pork belly for the first time and we cooked our steak rare, because my family prefers our meat still mooing. We would be cut off from the people according to Leviticus standards where it clearly states: "Anyone who eats the fat of an animal from which an offering by fire may be made to the Lord must be cut off from his people. If anyone eats blood of an animal that person must be cut off from his people." (Leviticus 7.22-27 ish).

To our defense, we weren't planning on burning the fat we ate as a burnt offering to the Lord, so I guess we get off on a loophole for that transgression.

Leviticus. The book of priestly law code that is full of helpful gems like: how to remove kidneys from a young bull to offer as a sacrifice, and how to never touch the skin of a dead pig, and what to do if you accidentally sin but don't realize you had. We don't usually preach from it. People usually find it too gory or archaic. I find it fascinating and overlooked. Given my proclivity for obscure Hebrew Scriptures, I think you know where this is going....

This year we kick off the season with a series on Leviticus called: "Leviticus Unlocked: Ancient Laws for Today's Faith." The laws of Leviticus can seem barbaric and outdated. Blood, guts, fire, and so many repetitive rules. Why?



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Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here



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What might the priestly manual from the Hebrew Bible tell us about the order of life that God intended for humanity? Through this series, we will unlock the ancient laws of Leviticus, so that they may inform our faith and how we live our lives today. I promise you it won't be boring! Also, you can thank Lily and Eric, because I originally thought this would better fit into 8-10 weeks, but they talked me down to four. It's good to be a part of a team of pastors!

Looking forward to an incredible year of programming, ministry, growth, peace, and service.

Grace & Peace,



Rev. Dr. Darcy Crain
Senior Minister

BIBLE 101 FCC ADULT EDUCATION



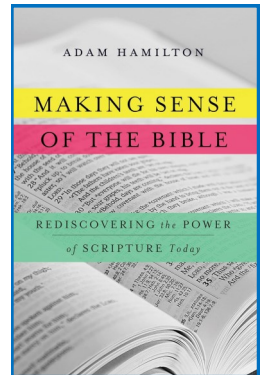
New Adult Education Offering this Fall: Bible 101

Beginning September 15

11:15 a.m. in the Mayflower Room

If you were to pick up a bible, and open it randomly to three different books, maybe a psalm, 2 Samuel, and some tiny paragraph called Jude, what would you need to know to have those words make any sense? Who put these books there and why?

The new adult education offering this Fall is called Bible 101 and will be a synopsis book about how to make sense of the bible. It is based off a book by Adam Hamilton called "Making Sense of the Bible, Rediscovering the Power of the Bible Today." Purchasing and reading the book is recommended to get the most out of this class. If you need help procuring a book, let us know.



We will meet 6 times: September 15, October 6, October 13, November 10, November 17, and November 24. We will learn about origin, history, authorship, purpose, and canonization of how our scriptures came to be what we know of now as our Bible. The classes will be taught by Darcy, Lily, or Eric and will be held in the Mayflower Room starting about 11:15. Please join us!

THEOLOGY ON TAP



citysocializer

We heard your feedback and Theology on Tap is changing to more tap and less theology. Going forward, this will be a purely social gathering with no planned theological discussion topic. Mark your calendars for 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 27, and Friday, October 25. More details to come.



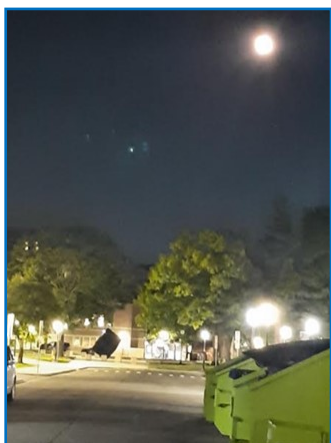
LILY TINKER FORTEL
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Summer is so many things! Rest, adventure, renewal, anticipation...the list goes on!

Here at FCC, we've enjoyed all of these things and more. Staff and members alike get some rest and enjoy needed breaks. And broadly, things just lighten up a bit at FCC in the summer. It's great to be part of a community that understands the importance of rest.



We continue to adventure - exploring our faith and our world together! This summer, we met up at various places in the community for First Friday Family Fun Nights and Theology on Tap gatherings. In worship, we blessed our pets; danced the Hokey Pokey together; and



explored fascinating scripture. Thanks to Jared's leadership, FCC now has an Ann Arbor Rec & Ed softball team: The Holy Hitters. Some are enjoying Sunday afternoon pickle ball games, thanks to Peter Allen. And, of course, we can't forget the adventure that Chris, Dave, and Robbie lead for FCC members each summer, by inviting us to collect Art Fair trash and recycling.



FCC has experienced renewal this summer! We've been fed by beautiful music in worship. Thanks to the work of our Building and Grounds subcommittee, you'll notice that the stained glass in Pilgrim Hall is looking brilliant

and the stairs at State St. & E. William have been refreshed. (See page 18) With Scott Allen's guidance, FCC's youth started working on a new set of "God's Doors." (See page 21 for pictures) The doors will be displayed on State Street and will communicate our commitment to welcome all. As this



Courier goes to print, we're looking forward to a volunteer workday to renew our Sunday school classes as the school year begins.

In addition, there has been so much anticipation of the year ahead! Staff has worked on the annual calendar of events. Marina has been hard at work planning events that will facilitate connections among our kids and youth and FCC members of all ages. Thanks to Marta Skiba, we will have fun activities for our elders at First Friday Family Fun Nights. Christine has been planning for Middle and High School youth events. Ben, Tim, Terry, Josh and soloists are planning enriching musical offerings for the year ahead. Darcy, Eric, and I have planned our sermon series for the coming year. On August 19, our Church Council met to do initial planning and dreaming for 2024-2025.

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LILY TINKER FORTEL
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

As we reflect on the fullness of summer, we are excited to welcome all to FCC for Kick-off Sunday on September 8. Whatever the year ahead brings, we will continue to seek rest and refuge in community. We'll continue to find adventure together - whether we're exploring scripture or doing fun community activities outside of worship. We'll care for one another. We'll continue to find renewal in our faith, in music, in service, in learning together, and in the love and welcome we find here. We'll anticipate and build for the future of FCC and our world as we journey together in love and respect. What a year it will be!



Rev. Lily Tinker Fortel
Associate Minister



FCC MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
NEW YOUTH PROGRAMMING 2024-2025

We're excited to announce new youth programming for 2024-2025! More details to come, but here are the basics:

- Our amazing Christine Martínez will continue to offer **Sunday morning** classes for Middle School Youth in the Meeting Room during 10:00 a.m. worship.
- *most **second Tuesdays** from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Christine will lead "Tuesday Night Out" for our Middle School Youth.
- On most **fourth Tuesdays** from 6:00-8:00 p.m., we will have dinner and programming for both Middle & High School youth at FCC. We'll begin with eating dinner together as a group, then middle school and high school will split into separate groups for discussion and programming.
- Each month we will also offer a service opportunity for our High School Youth.



Save
the
Date

Upcoming Middle (MS) & High School (HS) Youth Events

Mark your calendars - more info to come!

- Friday, September 6 - Family Fun Craft Night at FCC
- Sunday, September 8 - Kick-off Sunday at FCC
- Tuesday, September 10 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. MS Night Out at Best Games in Ypsi
- Sunday, September 15 - MS Class during 10:00 a.m. worship
- Sunday, September 22 - MS Class during 10:00 a.m. worship
- Tuesday, September 24 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. MS & HS Youth at FCC
- Sunday, September 29 - MS Class during 10am worship
- Friday, October 4 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. Family Fun Night at FCC
- Sunday, October 6 - 2:00 p.m. CROP Walk

MARINA BAKER
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

This summer is over but we did have a couple of fun family events during the break: a pool meetup in July, and a Family Fun Night in August with a Mario Kart tournament! (See page 19 for pictures) We have also been getting ready for the new year of FCC Kidz & Youth, which will be starting with Kickoff Sunday on September 8! During traditional worship, there will be a Backpack Blessing and following the service is the Kickoff Sunday Potluck/Picnic, which includes a bounce house!



This fall we will be holding First Friday Family Fun Nights on the first Friday of each month, starting with a Craft Night on September 6!

CRAFT NIGHT - All Ages Welcome!
September 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. @FCC
Dinner Provided, Donations Welcome



Please join Marina and FCC friends for First Friday Family Fun Night - Arts and Crafts. Slime-making, painting, friendship bracelets, fall crafts, God's eyes, and more. All ages are welcome! Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to the Office.

Later in the season we will hand out bibles to our new 3rd-graders, have a Halloween costume parade, a Christmas Pageant, and much more. We hope to see you in FCC Kidz soon!


Marina Baker
Children's Ministry Coordinator




Blessing of the Pets
Sunday, August 18

FCC Kidz New Program Year
officially begins on September 8!

Register children (Age 0 - 5th Grade)
using this code:



Youth (Grades 6-12)
please complete a **release form** using
this code:



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
AN OUTREACH MINISTRY OF FCC
NANCY SAUVE, CONGREGATION LIAISON



Circle of Friends will have their initial meeting of the year on **September 15 in the Mayflower Room at 9:00 a.m.** If you have volunteered before, or if you would like to be a friend to a friend in the congregation, please join us to discuss the new year.

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.

Please contact Nancy Sauve at nancy@fccannarbor.org if care is needed, if you would like to be a part of this ministry, if you have any questions, or if you know someone who could benefit from having a friend.

Thank you so much!



Here to help

FCC FOOD PANTRY
GAIL HAYNES, FCC MEMBER



LOVE IN ACTION

When one thinks about the services that Hope Clinic provides to our community, one may think about the medical, dental and vision services of this free clinic. But they also are the largest free food program in our county! These services include a pantry of choice where shoppers pick the food they want including dairy, meat and fresh produce, a delivery service for those who do not have transportation, a farm stand that provides fresh produce, a hot meal program 6 days a week, emergency food bags, and baby care items.

This graphic shows the word Love in some of the many languages that clients at Hope Clinic speak. Hope Clinic believes in providing care for the whole person and treating each person with dignity, all in Jesus's name. They are ranked 4 stars by Charity Navigators. Our church is a partner church with Hope Clinic with regular monetary contributions. In addition, our food pantry donations go to them.

Please consider these suggestions for your donations:

Low sodium soups, Whole grained pastas, Salad dressings, Gluten free items, Canned meats and fish, Jam, Jelly, Low sugar cereals, Dish soap, Shampoo, Laundry detergent

Donations can be put in the food collection shelves in the Welcome Center.



FCC CORE VALUES STORIES

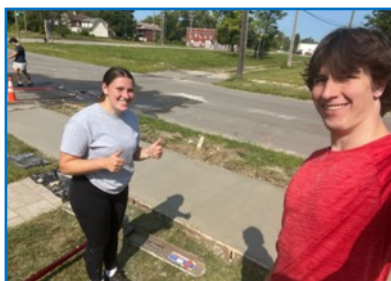
Le Nguyen is a new member and has joined the crew of deacons, and we're thrilled that he has done so! Le has been involved in various ways at FCC, whether chaperoning the Middle and High School Lock-In, picking up trash and recycling for the Art Fair R&R team, or presenting a CIC Second Sunday Presentation on AI. We are grateful to have Le in our community and wish him the best as he begins his new role as a Deacon.

Marge Stearns is on the right, and her husband, Jeff, is on the left. Marge and Jeff recently joined FCC, and Marge decided to join the team of Deacons, taking on this essential Sunday role for which we are all very grateful. Marge and Jeff have enjoyed connecting with members through worship services, fellowship time, and golfing outings. Thank you, Marge, for your dedication and service!



Joan Brush is pictured on the far right with her family. She is a new member and has also joined the crew of Deacons, and we're thrilled that she has done so! Joan has gotten involved with FCC in various ways: she has joined the Gardening Angels, volunteered in FCC classrooms on Sundays, and helps with attendant duties in the FCC Kidz lobby on Sundays. We wish Joan the best as she begins her new role as a Deacon, and are grateful for her presence!

Many heartfelt thanks to Jane and Tom Ziesemer, for being excellent guides recently at our Sunday worship service. Jane and Tom helped guide a new international student throughout the church and introduced him to people. You two are great examples of what it means to be an FCC member!



Thank you to Ryan Bentley, Helena, and Zane Myler for taking time out of your Saturday to drive to Detroit and pour concrete for Cass Community Social Services. As FCC youth alums, Ryan, Helena, and Zane embody what it means to be an FCC'er. We appreciate you all!

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.

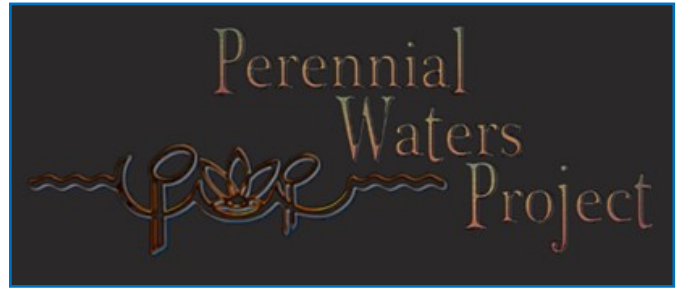
Courage—We are a faith community committed to persevere and grow in the midst of challenges and opportunities.

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

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

PERENNIAL WATERS PROJECT
ST. PHILIP LUTHEREN CHURCH, TRENTON, MI

Our FCC Bookkeeper, Crystal McBride spoke with Darcy about an environmentally conscious advocacy group, called Perennial Waters, which she learned about at her daughter's open house. They did a water runoff from a massive roof at a church into a rain garden, which helps with water bills while also growing pollinator plants etc. Darcy thought it a great idea to mention them in the Courier as a way to educate/ interest others in the Perennial Waters Projects.



ABOUT THE PERENNIAL WATERS PROJECT

During the spring of '19, a project centered on the grounds of the church and preschool was proposed. The project would organize and activate grassroots community social/ecological commitments in "Downriver" neighborhoods south of Detroit, Michigan. Here began **The Perennial Waters Project (PWP)**. We developed *rain gardens* and *pollinator gardens* for the preschool on the campus of St. Philip Church, with the hope that they may serve as models for the development of other regional common-space gardens. When you are outside, you may not notice hummingbirds, bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, and flies carrying pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. However, these hard-working animals help pollinate over 75 percent of the world's flowering plants, and nearly 75 percent of our crops. Without pollinators, wildlife would have fewer nutritious berries and seeds to eat, and we would miss many fruits, vegetables, and nuts, like blueberries, squash, and almonds — not to mention chocolate, and coffee, all of which depend on pollinators.

PWP is a *community outreach project*, a ministry of St. Philip ELCA church in Trenton, MI. Those members to whom we reach out may most often be the landscape itself and the critters who share this beautiful South East Michigan region with us. It is a diverse membership within our regional ecosystem and our boundaries are porous.

For more information, their website is perennialwaters.org, and below is the link for a brief video:

<https://vimeo.com/998543457/ea17a68082>



2024 CROP HUNGER WALK TO SUPPORT CWS CARRIE DIBBLE AND LILY TINKER FORTEL



**CROP HUNGER WALK, October 6
1:00 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church**

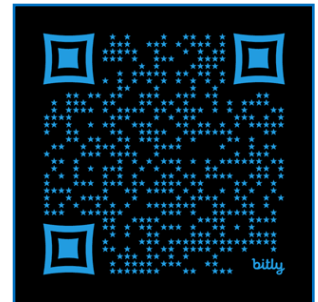
#FCCA2 is putting faith into action! We value the work of Church World Service, from disaster relief to fighting to end world hunger. We are participating in the 2024 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us with your steps and your donations. Together we will provide more

meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them and create greater food security in communities around the world. 25% of funds raised go to Ann Arbor charities that provide food to those needing it in our community. This year the community goal is to raise \$50,000 to match the 50 years Ann Arbor has participated. Please donate to our team today!

You may join our “walking” team and/or donate to this important cause by following this link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/the-first-congregational-church-of-ann-arbor>

Or, you may visit the **FCC Team Page** by using/scanning this QR code:



September 11 - PATRIOT DAY and NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

Patriot Day on September 11th honors the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent victims who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Each year Americans dedicate this day to remembering those who died and the first responders who risked their own lives to save others.

For many, September 11, 2001, began like any other weekday. We made our way to work. Children attended school. We shopped, had coffee, waited in line at a drive-thru. Those of us who weren't in New York City heard the first reports on the radio or television. A friend or neighbor alerted us to a plane flying into one of the Twin Towers. We felt disbelief. An accident, perhaps, a miscalculation. Then, a second plane flew into the second tower. Our disbelief turned into uncertainty and concern.

Every year since that fateful day, the United States comes together to remember the fallen. We remember the first responders and those who made difficult decisions. Since that day, memorials have risen from the ashes.

ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE DAVE STEINER, MEMBER AND TRASH CZAR

2024 Summer Art Fair R&R

If you helped out during the past Summer Art Fair, this view is familiar. We spent three days moving rubbish and recycle from various street corners throughout the Art Fair to this location of dumpsters. We filled all six dumpsters at least twice. The statistics are 1,490 pounds of cans & bottles, along with 1880 pounds of cardboard recycle. I guess you can literally say “we moved over a ton of stuff”. We could not have asked for better weather or better volunteers. We also provided hospitality at the Michigan Theater for the artists who were showing their art to the public. This included buying food and being present at the theater handing it out.



Yes, there is a trash hauling orientation!

We (Chris, Robbie, and myself) want to thank the 69 volunteers for their support in raising over \$7,000 for both the Intergenerational Work Trips and the Youth Summer Work Trips. We even had a couple of Florida birds helping out.

We are planning to do this again in the summer of 2025 and you can sign up early. This is a great way to meet fellow members and help keep our city looking nice for visitors to Ann Arbor.

Here's the QR code for '2025' Summer Art Fair R&R (which already has several volunteers signed up already):



ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

Many thanks to Dave Steiner, Trash Czar, for his write up (See page 10) of our very successful fund-raising event, the **2024 Summer Art Fair R&R** (Rubbish and Recycling) event (See pages 19 and 20 for pictures).

Coming right up is one of AFC's biggest and best-attended events, Kick-off Sunday on September 8. (See page 12) There is so much to look forward to that day...COP 9:00 a.m. service returns to every week, Chancel Choir is back after the summer break, and the annual potluck and bounce house on the FCC grounds is always a Good Time! We look forward to seeing everyone, and hope you can make it!

Please mark your calendars and watch for more information about these upcoming events:

- Sunday, September 29, 2024 Duncan McCallum Memorial Golf Scramble (see page 12)
- Sunday, December 1, 2024 All-Church Decorating Party
- Thursday, December 5, 2024 Advent Women's Evening (AWE)
- Sunday, January 5, 2025 All-Church Undecorating Party
- Sunday, February 23, 2025 Beat the Winter Blues Potluck



The 2024-2025 members of the AFC are Jane DeLancey, Dee Dee Fuleky, Diane O'Connell, Bruce Pringle, George Sawitski, Dave Seaman, Dave Steiner, Rich Westbury, and myself. Our committee tries to meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month, but keeps in touch via email about our regular upcoming events. We also have a team of adjunct members who like to know about upcoming events, in case they are able to help in some way. No obligation! If you would like to be a part of this 'elite' group, (almost as elite as trash haulers, lol), please email me at robbiesawitski@gmail.com, and I will add you to our list.

We also encourage anyone to bring ideas for community activities to our attention. As a team, we can help you make your idea a reality. With AFC, it takes many hands to make light the work, and, with the help of our church, we have proven this many times. Thank you to everyone who continues to step up and help with special set-ups, and clean-up after events.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES COMMITTEE

SARAH HOLMES, CHAIR

CIC Presentation: League of Women Voters, Pilgrim Hall
Sunday, September 29, 11:00 a.m., Pilgrim Hall

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend



democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

FCC UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND

Kick-off Sunday Potluck + Bounce House

Sunday, September 8

11:00 a.m. on FCC Grounds

Kick-off Sunday at FCC is always exciting and activity-filled. The COP service resumes weekly offerings at 9:00 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall. The Blessing of the Backpacks happens at the 10:00 a.m. service, as well as the return of the Chancel Choir. Following the 10:00 a.m. service, our annual Kick-off Potluck + Bounce House are the perfect finale to one of the most anticipated Sundays at FCC. We hope everyone comes to the party, even if you did not bring a dish to share.

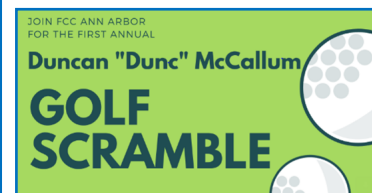
There is always more than enough to feed a small army, and we have a free-will donation basket available.

AFC will provide beef and vegan Sloppy-Joe sandwiches, potato salad, chips, and two gluten-free desserts.

Last Names A – M, please bring a side dish, veggie tray, or salad.

Last Names N - Z, please bring a fruit salad or dessert.

Please include a list of ingredients with each dish, and remember, **No Nuts or Nut Products**.



3rd Annual Duncan McCallum Memorial Golf Scramble 2024

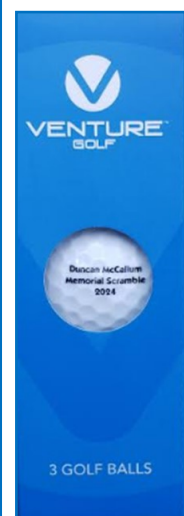
When: Sunday, Sept 29, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Hudson Mills Metro Park Golf Course just west of Dexter

Format: 9-hole scramble (best ball)

Cost: \$27 including cart (payable at the course on check-in)

Please join us no matter your golfing ability (or lack thereof) for a fun 9 hole *scramble* to commemorate long-time FCC member and avid golfer Duncan McCallum. "Dunc" played his last round of golf at age 89, just a few weeks before he died in 2019. He went out swinging! He was instrumental in starting the men's warming shelter at FCC. We are again holding this event in Dunc's honor. He was a great guy!



Put together your own four-person team or we will pair you with others.

This event is totally about FUN and playing a game that Dunc loved.

Hudson Mills is a player-friendly course with no water or swamps to hit

over off tee boxes or approaching greens. So, if you can swing a golf club, you can play it.

And, only the best positioned ball of the four hit on each shot will be played. The other three are picked up (if not lost). There are hole prizes for longest drive men/women, closest to pin on par 3's and longest putt *made*.

Prizes include a sleeve of golf balls imprinted **Duncan McCallum Memorial Scramble 2024**.

There will also be gift cards for hole & door prizes.

If there's enough interest, there will also be a putting contest. \$5 for three attempts.

To sign up or any questions, contact Dave Steiner dranodavec47@gmail.com or 734-645-1150.

FCC UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND

World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024

On this Sunday, we offer communion during the 9:00 a.m. COP and the 10:00 a.m. Traditional worship services. There will not be a 9:30 a.m. Communion service in the Douglas Chapel.



World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. It is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October. It promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation, while focusing on an observance of the Eucharist.

John 6:35

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst".



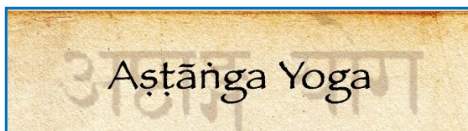
CHILDCARE NEEDED

Saturday Morning Yoga with FCC Member Jill Diwan

Jill is a certified, licensed Ashtanga yoga instructor/practitioner. She is ready to get back to the mat with those who are looking to either start their yoga practice, continue practicing, or even looking to challenge themselves more. Jill is able to work with all of us at our individual levels. While effectively keeping the pace moderate, she is able to guiding each person forward, offering helpful tips and suggestions. Jill wants to share this with others, at no charge, though donations are welcome each Saturday.

Jill Diwan and Robbie Sawitski would like to offer yoga to the church, as well as to the public, and we need your help. We need two 'babysitters' to watch any children that may come with their parents. Jill and Robbie will pay for the childcare. We would need coverage from 9:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.m., and we are willing to pay \$30.00 per each one and a half hour session, per person. We will start classes as soon as we have childcare in place.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in this paid position, please contact Robbie at 517-888-3342 or robbiesawitski@gmail.com.



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

- Developed a theme for the year. Focusing on “Respecting Individuals, Journeying Together”.
- Will work on goal setting as a replacement for the strategic plan.

Contact Information

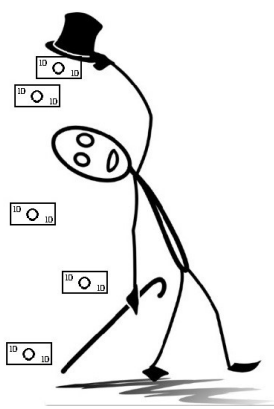
Feel free to contact any member of the Church Council with questions, comments, or concerns. We appreciate your feedback on the activities of the Church.

Next Scheduled Meetings

September 16, 2024
October 21, 2024
November 18, 2024



RAISE RIGHT - SCRIP CORNER
CHRIS VERMEULEN



It is a new fiscal year, so happy new year! As of July 1, 2024, two families have raised \$50.00 already. How can you help?

- Think of a place you frequent regularly, like Meijer, or Walmart, or Gordon Foods. You can check what is available at Raise Right without having an account.
- Sign up for a Raise Right account at RaiseRight.com.
- Order an e-gift or physical card (e-gifts you print for yourself and physical cards you have to pay for shipment but they can be reloaded later on).

Last fiscal year we raised **\$475.00** using reloadable gift cards and e-gift certificates. I hope you will join us raise more money for Sr. High and Integrational work-trips this year than last year.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please contact Chris Vermeulen at cnverm@aol.com.

Thank You For Your Support!

HISTORIAN CORNER

BETTY BISHOP



The First Congregational Church ♦ Ann Arbor, Michigan

From time to time I am asked about the stained glass windows at the church. The lovely and colorful windows in the sanctuary were added under Rev. Dr. Parr during the renovations in the early 1940s. The individual windows were given by various donors, often in memory of family members. For example, The Great East Window was given, by James Rowland Angell, President Emeritus of Yale University, in memory of his parents, Dr. James Burrill Angell and Sarah Caswell Angell. James Burrill Angell was President of the University of Michigan from 1871 until 1909. He and

his wife were active members of FCC during their years in Ann Arbor. Other windows were given as memorials to pastors and church members.

The windows in Pilgrim Hall were included when Pilgrim Hall was added to the church between 1951 and 1954. The seven large stained glass windows there tell stories of American history from the Mayflower to the Liberty Bell and Paul Revere, and pioneers moving West. There is also one window for the Scrooby Church in England where Congregationalism started in the 16th century. These windows were designed and made by Wipple and Company of Exeter and London, England, a firm which worked on the restoration of Exeter Cathedral. Please see page 18 for restoration pictures of one of these windows in Pilgrim Hall.

The story of the stained glass windows at FCC, especially the windows in Douglas Chapel, will continue in another issue of the Courier.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

PAUL FOSSUM, CHAIR

Your FCC Music Committee shares your enthusiasm as we embark on our 2024-2025 season. We're happy to take this chance to let you know who we are, and in broad strokes what we do and when we do it. We meet once a month to discuss matters we're charged in the FCC bylaws to address--for instance, preparation of our annual budget request, consulting with church leadership regarding our excellent professional musicians, and other matters concerning the vibrant musical offerings that enhance our worship experience. Regularly, our FCC music staff, Ben Gaughran, Director of Music, Terry Farmer, COP Music Director, Timothy Huth, Organist, and Josh Marzan, Pianist, attend and contribute at our meetings: We are blessed to be able to enjoy their talents and in myriad ways to benefit through their experience and expertise. As the year kicks off, I am honored to chair our Music Committee once more, and for this coming year, our additional elected members are Barbara Sturgis Everett, Donna Livant, David Smith, plus incoming members Mike Overdier, and Benjamin Woodmansee. If you have questions or ideas to share with us, feel free to approach any of us to share them. You may add to your calendars the projected dates of our traditional and much anticipated and valued "special music" offerings: for Advent, that date is December 15, and for Lent, mark April 13.



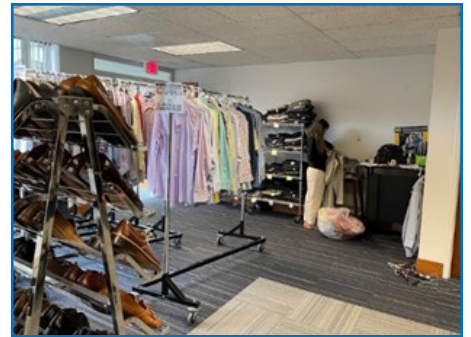
Finally, please allow me to plug choir membership. As Ben has noted, if you like to sing, for instance to croon in the car, or to warble in the shower...you qualify! Join us for our rehearsals on Sunday at 8:15 a.m. and our regular offerings during (most) 10:00 a.m. worship services--and share the joy we have in making music together.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE SUZANNE PRICE, CHAIR

The Missions and Outreach Committee (M&O) is excited to begin our new church year. We invite all church members and friends to join us in providing acts of kindness and donations to those served by local organizations and for international relief. This year's committee members are Suzanne Price (chair), Connie Nagle, Greg and Mary Jackson, Nicki Griffith, Fred Miller, Sheryl Kurze, Colleen Creal, and Mike Francis. Our current upcoming opportunities to get involved are as part of the rotating FCC team at the food pantry at Avalon Housing's Hickory Way Apartments (see more below), and on October 6 for the Ann Arbor CROP Walk 2024. (see page xx) Please join and support our FCC team of walkers who will participate in this year's walk to counter hunger through Church World Service projects around the world.

Clothing Closet

On August 8 and 9, Laura Lamps and her husband Paul Ward delivered the clothing our church donated in May to the Career Closets at University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Laura said that the staff at each place were delighted to receive the clothes. Thanks, FCC, for participating in this project to help students "dress for success" as they begin their careers. Thank you, Laura, for putting forward this project and for seeing it through from collection to delivery!



Michigan State University Career Closet director (in green MSU shirt) and a student volunteer as they receive the clothing FCC donated.



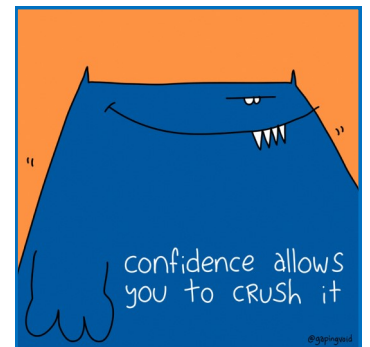
University of Michigan Career Closet employee who assists students in putting together their outfit.



Paul Ward, husband of Laura Lamps, as he helps Laura to deliver the FCC donated clothing to the U-M Career Closet

What It Is

The Clothes Closet is a program that allows U-M / MSU students to obtain business casual and business formal attire from a wide selection of clothing donated by U-M/MSU faculty, staff, alumni, and other professionals from the community. Students will also receive tips on how to dress to impress and build their professional brand!



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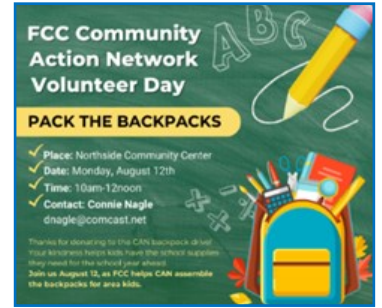
MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

SUZANNE PRICE, CHAIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

CAN Backpack Drive

Thank you FCC members and friends for contributing to this year's Backpack and School Supplies collection for the students of Community Action Network. On August 12, we brought your donations of 27 new backpacks and school supplies, as well as a \$1500 check to CAN's offices on Taylor in Ann Arbor. **Seventeen members of our church, including three kids, volunteered that day, to pack the backpacks with supplies.** Our FCC assembly line was effi-



cient and fun. The CAN director of Community Wellness and Engagement, Colette Johnson, sent a thank you message that included this statement of appreciation to FCC's Connie Nagle of our Mission and Outreach Committee:



"I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you to you and the other members of FCC for volunteering their valuable time here at CAN to pack backpacks and for the generous donation! In all, almost 200 backpacks were packed which was a huge help! I can't thank you enough for our partnership."

FCC volunteers at Backpack Packing:

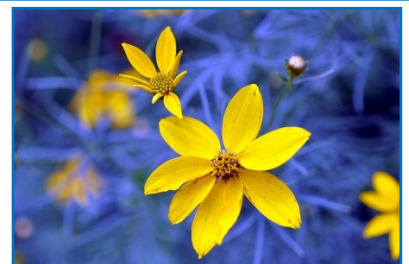
(l to r) Marta Skiba, Connie Nagle, Wanda Dawson, and Marilyn McCallum

Avalon Housing's Hickory Way Pantry Volunteers

This summer our church began a group volunteer opportunity with the food pantry of Avalon Housing's Hickory Way Apartments located on S. Maple Rd in Ann Arbor. Starting in June, FCC provided two - three volunteers to assist Avalon staff members in setting up the pantry with food and household supplies received from Food Gatherers in the morning. Our church is volunteering on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m. Our job is to set the food out before the pantry opens and to assist the residents in selecting the products they want from the produce, dairy, meat and fish, boxed and canned foods, and household supplies. When the pantry closes, we help to put perishable foods in the refrigerator and store shelf-stable things in their kitchen. The pantry is open on Monday and Wednesday, alternating weeks. To join our rotating group of volunteers, contact Rev. Lily Tinker Fortel at lily@fccannarbor.org. An orientation with Avalon is necessary before volunteering. Avalon Housing provides housing and support services to members of the community who have experienced housing insecurity. **Their mission: Housing First.**

FLOWERS and LAY READERS

Please sign up by Wednesday to be a lay reader, or to provide flowers for our 10:00 a.m. worship service. After the service, one of our Circle of Friends members will take the flowers and a Sunday bulletin to a homebound member, or someone recently ill to brighten their day.



To volunteer for either of these special needs, please email Jared at office@fccannarbor.org.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE

JANET ALLEN, MEMBER

The Committee has taken the summer off from meetings but the work did not stop! We have several accomplishments to report:

Kitchen Sub-Committee

A sub-committee of B & G was formed to make recommendations regarding kitchen needs and updates of equipment, maintenance and repairs. Members are Leslie Westbury (lead and liaison to the B & G Committee), Connie Nagle, Pam Dabbs, Robbie Sawitski, and Lily Tinker Fortel. One major discussion and recommendation was regarding updating the current pizza oven (only half still works) to an electric pizza oven recently donated by the Dexter Senior Center during their move to a new location. B & G looks forward to working with this committee to better meet the needs of members who provide meals and reception food from our kitchen.

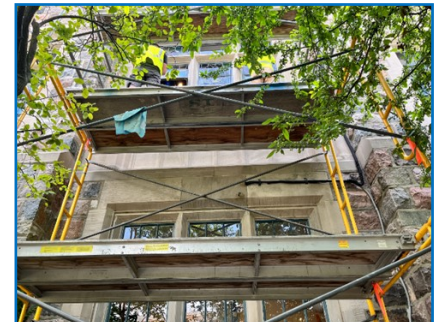


Interior enclosed during window work



Pilgrim Hall Stain Glass Windows

Refurbishing our beautiful stain glass windows in Pilgrim Hall has begun. This year we contracted to do the north side (Memorial Garden) of the room and next summer we will bring Thompson Glass back to do the south side (parking lot) of the room. Windows in the Pilgrim Hall lobby will be done in 2026. Their work included new face putty and painting on the outside, cleaning of windows and frames, new caulk and paint. Several panels were removed to be more extensively repaired in their shop. We anticipate the north side will be completed by kick off Sunday.



Exterior scaffolding during window work

Rebuilding North Stairs (outside the Narthex to William Street)



Cashero Raycraft returned to rebuild the leaning/deteriorating stairs from the Narthex to William Street. Work scope included rebuilding to plumb the stone cheek walls on each side of the steps and leveling the landing paver and treads on each step. Since it was determined two treads were broken and the rest were saturated with moisture contaminants from over the years, new limestone will be used to ensure this stairway is solid for decades to come.



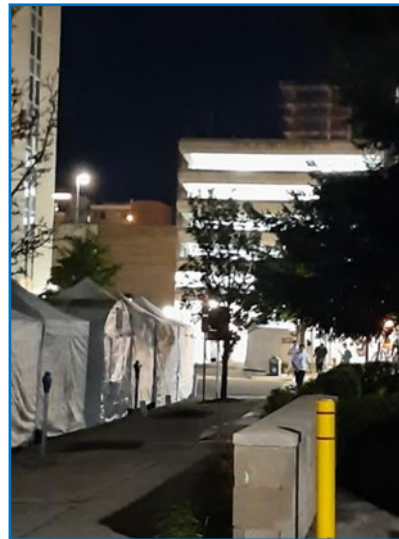
Irrigation System

Several repairs were made to the irrigation system. In addition a survey was done regarding all the zones and run times with adjustments made to cut down watering time and save on our water bill.

JULY AND AUGUST IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

First Friday Family Fun Night



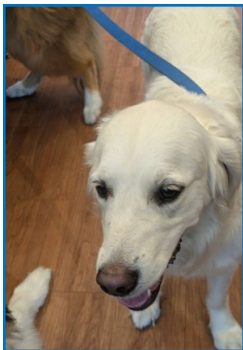
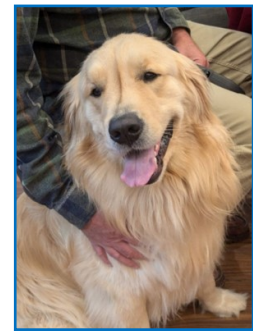
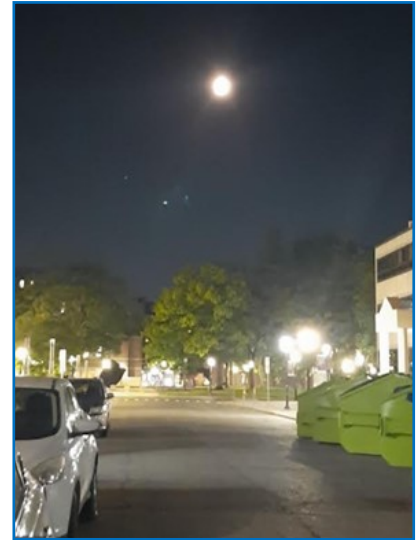
2024 Summer Art Fair R&R



JULY AND AUGUST IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

2024 Summer Art Fair R&R



JULY AND AUGUST IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

God's Doors are Open to All



**MIDDLE AND
HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH**
PAINTING & DINNER
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 14
FCC



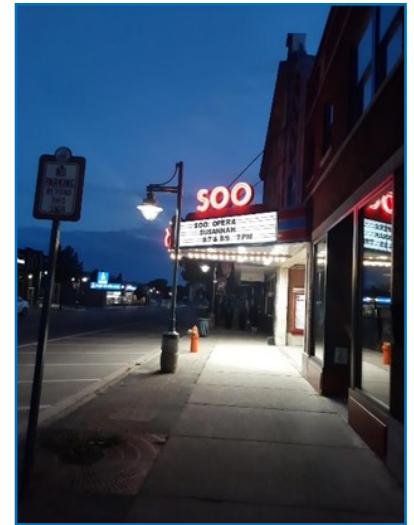
Music in the Park Dexter, MI Terry Farmer Band



JULY AND AUGUST IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

Music in the Park
Dexter, MI
Terry Farmer Band



George and Robbie Sawitski spent the last night of their vacation going to the opera in the Upper Peninsula.

Our very own Maitri White was in the opera **Susannah** on Wednesday, August 7, at The Soo Theatre in Sault Ste. Marie, MI



Clockwise L-R, Dave Deatrick, Maitri White, Robbie, George, Ben Deatrick, Pat Deatrick



SMALL GROUPS



TUESDAY NIGHT SERIES ~ TNS

Beginning September 10, please join us every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., in the Mayflower Room. All are welcome as we engage important themes through videos and conversation. For questions or comments, please reach out to Rev. Eric at eric@fccannarbor.org. All are welcome!

TEXT BREAKFAST

Starting on September 4, our text breakfast group meets every Wednesday, from 9:00 a.m. to about 10:15 a.m., at the Alpha Koney Diner, 4389 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The preaching pastor leads the discussion. We offer Zoom to those who are unable to be present in person. Watch the text breakfast group email for the scripture passage that will be discussed. Please email Darcy at darcy@fccannarbor.org if you would like to join us.

Bible & Breakfast

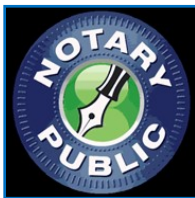
MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP



Mind and Spirit resumes on Wednesday, September 4. This small group welcomes women of the church who are interested in meeting other members and discussing books dealing with spirituality or contemporary issues. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 10:15-11:45 a.m., in the Mayflower Room and by Zoom. Please contact Gail Haynes at gehaynes66@gmail.com, if you would like more information, or to be on our email list.

This fall we will be reading:

- **When the Emperor was Divine** by Julie Otsuka
- **His Truth is Marching On, John Lewis and the Power of Hope** by Jon Meacham
- **Mayflower** by Nathaniel Philbrick
- **On the Brink of Everything** by Parker Palmer



Do you need a notary?

Our Congregation Liaison, Nancy Sauve is happy to help! Contact her at nancy@fccannarbor.org and bring your documents to church on Sunday morning.



Fall Back - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 2:00 a.m.

We will fall back for the year on **Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 a.m.** You will be setting your clocks back an hour and gaining an hour of sleep, and will be welcoming earlier sunrises and sunsets.





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

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Joshua Marzan
 Pianist
 pianist@fccannarbor.org

Nancy Sauve
 Congregation Liaison
 nancy@fccannarbor.org

SUNDAY IN-PERSON AND LIVESREAM WORSHIP

AND CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:50 - 11:15 a.m.	Childcare available for Nursery and Preschool
9:00 a.m.	COP (Change of Pace), Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m.	Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship, Sanctuary, and FCC Kidz Programming
	<i>Both worship services will continue to be livestreamed online</i>
11:00 a.m.	Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

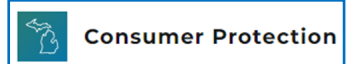
SEPTEMBER 2024

Labor Day, Office Closed

Sep 2		
Sep 4,11,18,25	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Koney Diner
Sep 4,18	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Sep 4	12:00 p.m.	Marketing Subcommittee Meeting, Zoom
Sep 5,12,19,26	TBD	Holy Hitters FCC Softball (start times vary)
Sep 6	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Family Fun Night, FCC
Sunday, Sep 8	10:00 a.m.	Blessing of Backpacks, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Kickoff Sunday Potluck, FCC Grounds
Sep 9	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sep 10	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth Night Out
Sep 10,17,24	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Mayflower Room
Sep 12	6:15 p.m.	Holy Hitters FCC Softball
Sep 13	5:00 p.m.	Wedding Rehearsal, Douglas Chapel
Sep 14	1:00 p.m.	Wedding, Douglas Chapel
Sunday, Sep 15	11:15 a.m.	AFC Meeting, Meeting Room
	11:15 a.m.	Bible 101, Mayflower Room
Sep 16	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sunday, Sep 22	11:15 a.m.	BOCE Meeting, Mayflower Room
	11:15 a.m.	Deacon Training
Sep 24	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth Group
Sep 25	9:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Volunteering, Hickory Way
Sep 26	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sep 27	6:00 p.m.	Theology on Tap
Sunday, Sep 29	11:00 a.m.	CIC Presentation: Women League of Voters, Pilgrim Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee Meeting, Mayflower Room
	2:00 p.m.	Duncan McCallum Memorial Golf Scramble, Hudson Mills Metro Park Golf Course



We know that some FCC members recently received a spam/phishing email from someone (or a bot) pretending to be FCC staff/clergy. As a reminder, FCC staff and ministers will not ask you for personal information or gift cards, nor will they tell you they cannot speak because they are busy in prayer meetings (that’s a popular one). Furthermore, if someone offers a baby grand piano of their deceased husband this is also a scam. When in doubt, call the church office, but don’t respond to the suspicious email or text. If it doesn’t “sound” like one of us, it’s probably not. If you receive an email that seems suspicious, do not respond immediately, and never open attachments. If you confirm it is spam/phishing, report it as such and block the sender.



You will find more information from the Michigan Attorney General at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/consumerprotection/protect-yourself/consumer-alerts/scams/phishing-scams>

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