

Congregational Courier

THOUGHTS FROM DARCY CRAIN SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends:



My grandma used to wash out Ziploc bags and reuse them. Drove me nuts! I went to Albion College and she lived in Jackson, MI so I had the opportunity to see her often, almost weekly during college. I was lucky; a home cooked meal, someone who didn't mind doing my laundry, and though I didn't realize the scope of it at the time, a sharing of wisdom that went beyond any education I was pursuing.

She washed out her Ziploc bags because she survived the depression and in so doing had learned to reuse everything and stretch everything as far as it could go. There was no wastefulness in the depression, only survival. And, she was a survivor.

Another quirk about her, she loved canned and frozen veggies and fruits. She would buy apples and bananas fresh, but that's about it. As the trend of farmer's markets, canning your own vegetables, and making your own jams and jellies became more popularized, she shook her head in defiance. I spent my whole childhood picking, cleaning, and canning to help my mom feed our family during the winter months. I have the resources now to buy a can from the grocery store shelf, and that is exactly what I am going to do.

These are bits of wisdom I remember now as an adult. Bits I wish I could still tell her I finally understand. Her echoes of wisdom have helped me think more critically about why a person is the way they are before rushing to a judgment about their decision.

Fast forward to her great grandsons currently eating me out of house and home...

The other day Britt said, "Mom, mom check out this video." I hate checking out videos. I hate the incessant sound bites changing and the 30 second attention spans they create. But, I want to understand their world. So I watched a video really an effort of the marketing of Coca Cola during

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Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here

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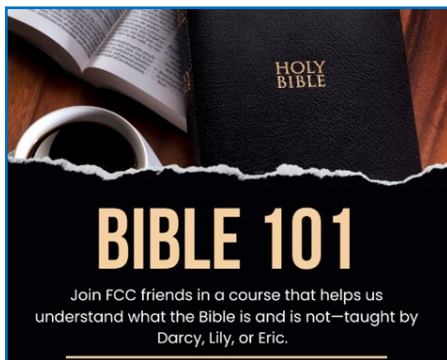
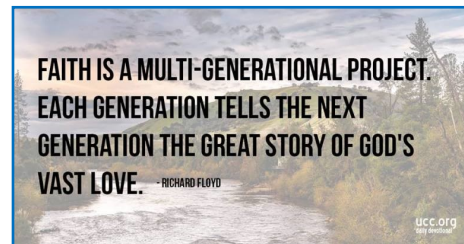
about how Santa didn't always wear red and it was the winter months. He shared that he thought it was crazy how much of a difference marketing could make and wondered how many other things that we thought had always been that way were really a result of some marketing trend that's "super old." I didn't know his young brain ever considered the reach of marketing. I wouldn't have known if I would've dismissed him and his request to watch this video.

Generations have wisdom to teach one another, but we must take the time to listen. In November, we will be launching a sermon series called Generation to Generation. We will need your help for it. I'm looking for two generations to interview one another. We are interested in questions like: "who are the people who shaped you," "what do you take a stand on," and "how has your faith helped you in times of adversity?" We'd like to pair those of a senior level of wisdom with some of our youth. We hope you can take the time during fellowship hour after worship to find a space in the church and informally interview one another about one of these topics. Through the use of a simple audio recording you can share these stories with Eric, Lily, and I, and your stories will help form the basis of the sermons we will offer.

Our faith is one that has been handed down from our ancestors. It was transmitted, shared, and recorded through oral tradition. As we seek to live out our faith and pass it down to the future generations, let us do so through sharing our stories and wisdom with one another. Can't wait to hear the wisdom you will share!



Rev. Dr. Darcy Crain
Senior Minister



Bible 101

October 6, 13

November 10, 17, 24

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?

This adult education offering is a synopsis 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 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!

LILY TINKER FORTEL
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Another season is underway at our beloved FCC! September saw the launch of our programming year with Kickoff Sunday potluck and festivities. We blessed backpacks of FCC students and teachers heading back to school. We celebrated another successful backpack and school supply drive - a partnership with CAN (Community Action Network) facilitated by our Missions and Outreach committee. (See page 17)



Our Chancel Choir is back during 10:00 a.m. worship, and Terry and other musicians are enriching our 9:00 a.m. Change of Pace Service. Sundays are bustling with worship, FCC Kidz Sunday school for children and youth, Fellowship Hour, our new Bible 101 class, and more. Weekdays are vibrant too! Our weekly small group gatherings (See page 23) and weekday board and committee meetings are back.

As the Psalmist wrote: *“Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy all you upright in heart.” - Psalm 32:11* At FCC, there is much for which to rejoice and be glad! **And**, as with all seasons in our lives and in our world, there is much about which we hold concern. As we zoom out, we recognize pains and challenges in our own lives. The fullness of day-to-day responsibilities with a new school year can feel overwhelming. We grapple with life’s challenges - health, grief, uncertainty, loneliness. We worry for our loved ones who are facing the struggles of new beginnings and transitions of grief and pain.

As we zoom out further yet, we see a country and world grappling. The whirlwind of another election cycle and the state of things. The devastating impacts of the climate crisis here in the United States and around the world. The present realities of war and violence that dominate international news.

How do we balance the fullness of the ups and downs in moments such as these?

- Participating in loving, caring and joyful communities like FCC. Here we gather to celebrate life, to center our faith, *and* to explore the guidance our faith offers for living in a complex and painful world. Here, we can be honest about *how* we are. We can find care, and we can help connect one another to resources of support. Here, we journey together in care and love, respecting one another, whatever our stories, and wherever we are on our life journeys.
- Finding space for spiritual practices, including pause and prayer, is so important, especially when we feel overwhelmed. In October, we’ll launch our “Prayers of the Bible” sermon series. Prayer isn’t the only answer to every challenge - sometimes we need the support of mental health professionals and other care providers and loved ones. Still, spiritual centering and grounding is important.



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LILY TINKER FORTEL
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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- Finding ways to serve in love and act to make the world better. Finding our sense of purpose and turning our inward focus outward is important. Whether that service and action takes place through opportunities facilitated by FCC, or in other spaces, it can be transformative.

As we look forward to the coming months at FCC, we'll see many more opportunities to celebrate and rejoice as a community, and so many more openings to love, respect, and care for one another as we journey through the fullness of life. Happy Fall, FCC. May we be glad and rejoice, as we honor the fullness.



Rev. Lily Tinker Fortel
Associate Minister



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

Our new youth programming for 2024-2025! More details to come, but here are the basics:

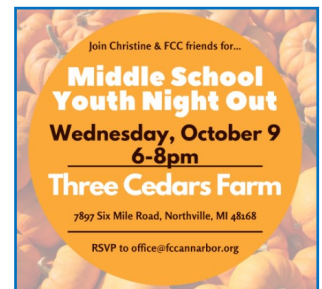
- Our amazing Christine Martínez will continue to offer **Sunday morning** classes for Middle School Youth in the Meeting Room during 10:00 a.m. worship.
- *most **second Tuesdays** from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Christine will lead "Tuesday Night Out" for our Middle School Youth.
- On most **fourth Tuesdays** from 6:00 p.m. - 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!

Fri, Oct 4	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Family Fun Night at FCC
Sun, Oct 6	2:00 p.m.	CROP Walk (see page 8)
Wed, Oct 9	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth Night Out, Three Cedars Farm, Northville, MI
Tue, Oct 22	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Middle and High School Youth Group at FCC
Sun, Oct 27	11:00 a.m.	Middle and High School Youth Pumpkin Carving, Pilgrim Hall
Wed, Nov 12	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth Night Out: Friendsgiving, Member House
Sun, Nov 17	11:30 a.m.	Middle and High School Youth Leaf Raking at Member House
Tue, Nov 26	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Middle and High School Youth Group at FCC



MARINA BAKER
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

All of us with FCC Kidz delight in fall, as we settle into the routine of a new school year. Once again, Kick-off Sunday proved fun and invigorating! Special thanks to Tyler Towery for making balloon animals! Also, his mom, Val, for artful and amazing face painting! One aspect of the picnic that I particularly enjoy is watching the teenagers (older youth) get a chance to thrash about in the bounce house, the joy and exhilaration on their faces makes us all smile! (Pictures on page 20)



This year BOCE decided to try out a new curriculum for FCC Kidz, and we believe it offers more engaging activities for our students, to learn and explore their faith.



Family Fun Nights will continue this fall on the first Friday of each month. September's Craft Night featured two opportunities: making wool acorns with Marta Skiba and tree painting with Val Towery! Attendees of all ages also had fun making "God's Eyes," among other activities. (Pictures on page 19) On **October 4**, we are having a Pumpkin Decorating Contest, and pizza and ice cream will be served!

All ages are welcome to wear costumes and join us on Sunday, **October 27**, during the traditional worship service for the FCC Kidz Costume Parade! At the beginning of the service, we will gather in the narthex and then parade down the aisle during Children's Circle.



On **November 1**, the first Friday of the month, all are invited to Family Fun Night at 7pm for a movie night! Popcorn & drinks will be provided. (The movie choice will be decided by a virtual poll and will be announced closer to the event.)

Also, on **each Sunday morning in November**, our youth will collect coats and winter gear for our annual "Coat Drive". (See page 10) A big thank you to Chris

Vermeulen, who always helps to coordinate this!

The holiday season seems far away but it always comes fast. For now, we will enjoy the changing of the leaves, the preparation for the holidays, and the calming influence of our community before the election.

Marina Baker
Children's Ministry Coordinator



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.



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



Circle of Friends had 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 let Nancy know.

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



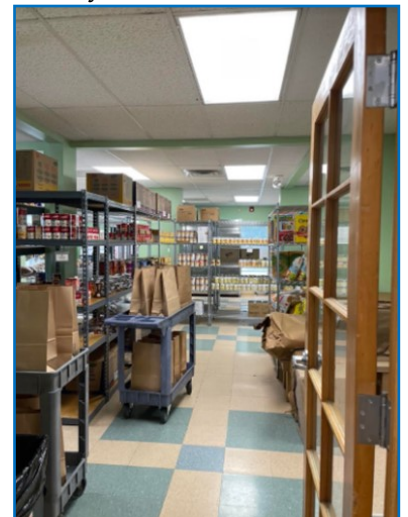
When a person is greeted at their shopping time, one of the first questions asked is about their shopping needs. Do they have specific needs, and are they are looking for particular items?

Hope Clinic Food Pantry operates as a "Pantry of Choice." The pantry of choice model allows clients to choose for themselves which grocery items their families want to use. It's less streamlined, less efficient but it's joyful, and joy is a sign that the Spirit of God is active! This upholds the belief that we honor people's dignity by asking what they want.

Monetary contributions to food pantries enable the purchase of bulk basic food through Food Gatherers so that shelves are never empty. But the donations of additional items allows pantries to have a larger variety of items available and to help meet specific needs such as child friendly, low salt, gluten free, high protein, vegetarian, and special treats as desserts.

Can you help provide some of the variety that we all appreciate in our diets? Please bring any of these always appreciated items to the donation shelves in the Smith Welcome Center:

Soups and meals in a can, canned meats, peanut butter and jellies, pasta sauces, low sugar canned fruits, gluten free pastas, cereals, personal care items, household cleaners.



FCC CORE VALUES STORIES



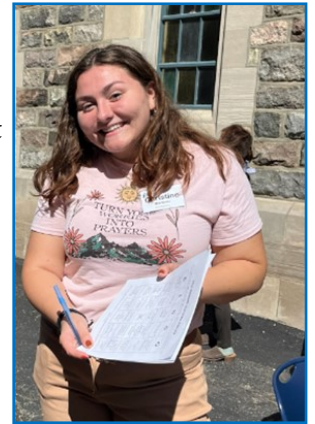
Cookie Care Packages for Students

We have many students joining us for worship, many of whom are on campus for the first time. For many years, we have warmly welcomed them with home made cookies. Many thanks to all our FCC Bakers for providing these tasty reminders that FCC cares.



Val Towery
FCC Face Painter Extraordinaire

Kick-off Sunday could never happen without all the amazing volunteers who stepped up to help with set-up, which truly takes many hands. Many thanks to them, and all the volunteers and members who made food, helped set tables and chairs, made balloon animals, painted faces, monitored the bounce house, or informed people of your board and committee. We appreciate every one of you!



Christine Martinez
Youth Activities

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!

LET’S WELCOME OUR NEW TREASURER

DAVID BECK



David Beck is our new Treasurer. He grew up in Ann Arbor and graduated from Huron High School. David started working at Fiegel’s Clothing on Main Street while in high school and worked there full-time after graduation. While working full time at Fiegel’s, he earned a BA in Language & International Trade (he speaks German fluently) at Eastern Michigan University and then earned an MBA with a concentration in Finance. David enjoys camping and recently retired from being Scoutmaster for a local Boy Scout troop after 29 years. He also enjoys training his collies (“the best dogs in the world,” he says), and restoring and riding his vintage BMW motorcycles.

David grew up in the Lutheran Church, and started attending services at FCC in the 1980’s, with his good friends, Ray and Glenda Ward. He became a member in the late 1980’s and has served as a Deacon several times over the years. His wife, Shirley, and his daughter, Rose, are both members of FCC. David says he has especially fond memories of watching Rose grow up in the church and participating in the family Christmas pageant along with the other angels.



FCC UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND BEYOND



World Communion Sunday (Deacons) October 6, 2024

Today, 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.

John Churchville will join Terry on Tabla this Sunday during the Change of Pace service to help celebrate World Communion Sunday! John is a Grammy-winning tabla player and two-time Grammy Music Educator Award semi-finalist. He is also a one-time winner and two-time nominee for a Detroit Music Award. He is a husband and proud father of two based in Ann Arbor.



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."



CROP HUNGER WALK, October 6, 2024 (M & O) 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 see page 17 for more details about signing up and where to meet.

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 can join our team and/or donate to this important cause by visiting the FCC team page at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/the-first-congregational-church-of-ann-arbor> or by using the QR Code here:



ABOUT CWS



The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Hundreds of religious groups, businesses, schools and others organize local Walk events in their communities each year, while others join the National Walk and choose their own location and experience.

FCC UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND BEYOND



Kids' Organ Time with Dr. Tim
October 13
11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

FCC Organist 'Dr. Tim' Huth has always stressed the importance of starting children early with musical instruments and singing. The excitement they feel can develop into many positive life lessons, including studying music. Children (big and small) are welcome to join Dr. Tim behind the organ screens, and try the Wilhelm organ on October 13.

No reservation needed. Just show up and tickle those ivories.

Terry Farmer Trio
Saturday, October 19, 2024
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

North Star Lounge
301 North 5th Avenue Ann Arbor, MI, 48104

Purchase Tickets:

<https://www.nstarlounge.com/tickets/p/terryfarmertrio>



If there's one constant to Terry Farmer's ongoing musical and spiritual evolution, it is a relentless striving for advancement into new territory and techniques while at the same time clinging to the tastes and traditions that have shaped his development since his earliest days.

In his latest musical venture, Farmer combines the skill and discipline that led to the attainment of a degree in Classical guitar, with the joy and freedom that have always characterized his touring jam band, to deliver an original feel-good rock and roll that is comfortably familiar and unpredictably spontaneous. Terry's trio includes two of his favorite pro musicians and people: Neil Donato on keyboards, and Mike Harrington on Pedal Steel and Acoustic Guitar.



Sunday, October 20 (Deacons)
FCC Info Session
11:00 a.m. – Mayflower Room

welcome

New to FCC? Please come learn more about who we are and how we govern ourselves as a member-directed church. You will have the opportunity to get to know current and newer members, and chat with our ministers. Did we mention there will be brunch?! What's not to love?

We hope you can join us on Sunday, October 20 at 11:15 a.m., in the Mayflower Room (main floor).

FCC UPCOMING EVENTS
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

All-church Baby Shower for Steve ~and~ Lily
Sunday, October 20
1:00 p.m., Pilgrim Hall

We are so excited to welcome Lily and Steve's baby girl into the world and into the FCC Community! We will shower them with love on Sunday, October 20, from 1-3 pm in Pilgrim Hall. There will be appetizers and desserts. If you would like to shower the baby with gifts, please email Nancy at nancy@fccannarbor.com for the link to the registry.



In lieu of a card, please consider inscribing a book as we help build baby's bookshelf! RSVPs would be helpful so that we can prepare enough food for everyone. This shower is not just for the ladies, come one come all, young-uns welcome too!



Pumpkin Sunday All-church Potluck (AFC)
Sunday, October 27
11:00 a.m., Pilgrim Hall

Mmmmmmm.....pumpkin rolls, and.....muffins



And.....pie!



The Activities and Fellowship Committee will provide the main course for all, mainly Jerusalem Gardens' Chicken Shawarma, Mujadara (lentils and caramelized onions) (Vegan and GF), House Rice (contains gluten, vegan), cooked broccoli (V,GF), and fruit salad (V,GF).

If you would like to contribute to the potluck, please bring your favorite 'pumpkin dish'. Of course, we're mainly looking for desserts, but if you have a favorite savory pumpkin dish, please bring it. We are asking that you please provide the entire recipe, in detail. The reason is that the newly established FCC Kitchen Committee is in the process of putting together a New FCC Cookbook. You can find more cookbook information on page 16.



Middle School Youth Coat Drive (BOCE)
All Sundays in November

Our youth will collect coats and winter gear for our annual "Coat Drive". Gently used and clean donations gratefully accepted. This event is a gift of warmth from the heart for those less fortunate.

A big thank you to Chris Vermeulen, who always helps coordinate this!

*"Whatever you did for one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

~ Matthew 25:40

FCC UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND BEYOND



Men's Overnight Rotating Shelter (M & O)

November 18 - 25



FCC will once again be hosting an overnight shelter and evening meal to men in our community for one week. The Washtenaw Area Shelter Association selects the guests who participate. We are asking members of our congregation to consider volunteering for a night during this week.

We will also be asking for donations for evening meals, and snacks that the men can pack for the day. More details, including an online volunteer form and a food donation sign-up form, will be available through church email and Sunday bulletins by early

The Shelter Association offers the Daytime Warming Program with the coordination provided by the community-based advocacy organization MISSION, whose Mission Statement is: "To work in partnership and solidarity between the homeless and the housed to build community and mitigate the alienation, disenfranchisement, loneliness, loss of agency and other forms of suffering caused by homelessness."



Confirmation Info Session (BOCE)

November 24, 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary

If you have a current 8th grader, please join us to learn more about our confirmation program. You will receive a calendar, and we can discuss expectations and discuss any questions you may have.

Prepare for no more than 15-20 minute meeting.

Christmas Wish Tree for CAN (M & O)

November 17 through December 8

One of our very special 'time for giving' holiday events is the M & O Christmas Wish Tree. FCC members and friends are invited to make a holiday wish come true for a child served by Community Action Network of Ann Arbor. For more information on how you can participate, please see the Missions & Outreach Committee article on page 17.



Annual All-Church Decorating Party (AFC)

Sunday, November 26, 11:00 a.m.



Chief Decorating Elf, Dave Steiner, and his AFC team of willing volunteers, will have everything staged and ready to go. After the 10:00 a.m. service, everyone gathers in the sanctuary with Dave. He will send you off to various areas of the church where leaders will be available to guide and answer questions. A tasty lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. for all the decorators. You can wear your work clothes to church!



AWE/Advent Women's Evening (AFC)

Thursday, December 7, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (check-in at 5:30 p.m.)

Please join us!

It's time to mark your calendars for this much anticipated annual event. We are arranging the catering, and will be share details in upcoming FCC weekly emails.

We are looking for 10 women who would like to hostess their own table. Each hostess may invite 2-3 friends to sit at their table, leaving 4 seats for us to mix and match and introduce others. Hostess Instruction Booklets are available on the table in the Smith Welcome Center. Please contact Robbie Sawitski at 517-888-3342 or robbiesawitski@gmail.com to be a hostess, to reserve your spot, or to ask questions.

Time for a Little Trash Talk



Well it has been a short time since we trash buddies have been together for the Art Fair. I sent out a request for feedback from our event last July and thought I would provide an update on what I read.

- I had so much more fun at this than I anticipated. I suggest when you start to solicit for volunteers in the spring/summer, have former volunteers who have done it and had fun (and repeatedly volunteered) talk about how much fun it is, and that it's really not a bad gig. I would also encourage people to sign up in pairs so that they have someone to hang out with during the breaks. (We will be looking for volunteers in February who are willing to provide testimony to the fun we have. Feel free to sign up in pairs.)
- Overall experience doing Hospitality at the Michigan Theater and being a host at FCC was great. I would suggest having more protein items (eggs, cheese sticks, and yogurt) in the breakfast items at the Theater since we ran out of these rather quickly. Otherwise I think both places went smoothly. I have already signed up again for 2025. (Thank you for signing up early. We appreciate knowing who will be with us sooner than later. Those in charge of buying items for the Hospitality at the Michigan Theater appreciate your input on potential items for next year.)
- Very well organized and all the effort and hard work the organizers did was greatly appreciated. (Thank you for your appreciation. We do what we can to make this a good time for all,)
- I really liked the format for this year where we kind of divided and conquered for set up! (We are always looking for ways to improve.)
- There is nothing that I can think of. Maybe start advertising volunteering positions two months before the Art Fair with the approval from Darcy and Lily. (We are so fortunate to have the full support of the ministers. We will try to keep touch with articles and encouragement for volunteers to sign up early.)
- Seems well organized. I enjoy the comradery doing a dirty job (trash pick-up). Having food and beverages available is VERY welcome!! Fruit, Gatorade, water.... How can we make those t-shirts fun?? color? a fun saying? I know the last night pick up is the hardest and there are never enough people; I'm not sure how to resolve that... incentive? (Since the t-shirts are provided to us, we have a limited amount of say as to what goes on them. We are going to try to get in the design earlier and maybe provide some input on the design. We agree that the clean up on Saturday night is light on volunteers and we can only encourage people to sign up. We will think about an incentive for those who help with clean up.)
- The route length was improved. We didn't have to make multiple trips with trash, although it was only Thursday when I worked. We did get a fair amount of cardboard. I think the cardboard bin in the trailer

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A2 ART FAIR - HOSPITALITY AND R & R FUND-RAISING EVENT (AFC)
CHRIS VERMEULEN, COMMUNICATIONS & LOGISTICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

was too small, but I doubt that's in your control. I thought it was a very positive experience. I hope to be in town to help next year. (We hope you will be joining us next year too. We agree about the cardboard situation and it is possible we will have a dumpster for just cardboard (see picture of red dumpster. We did a slight modification on some of the routes and are glad that you found it easier to work with.)

- The State St. route can be a lot, even with two bins we had to take many trips. Perhaps splitting it in half (eg. left and right side could each be a route), and the purple route could be split between the two because you have to walk through it anyway, that way there wouldn't be a whole extra route added. Just a suggestion! (We will look at how we might make the modification you suggest. For those not familiar with the color names for the routes, the purple route went around the church.)
- These comments are for afternoon. Running out of food in afternoon. Would be great to have more cookies, maybe church members could bake some. Fresh fruit, apples would be easy and refreshing. Maybe ice tea instead of coffee in afternoon. (Those who do the purchasing of food have already made plans to have more food and drinks available. Home baked cookies would be nice if we can get them.)
- I thought if each person was given a brown lunch bag instead of a grocery bag it might limit the amount of food some people would take. I wondered if all the food that went out the door really got eaten. Maybe it is best just to leave the system like it is depending on does the food come out of the church's profit or is it a separate budget. (The food distributed at the Michigan Theater is a separate budget from the food available at the church. Those that do the purchasing will evaluate having lunch bags available.)

Thank you to everyone for your input. If you would like to give us more please let Dave Steiner, Chris Vermeulen, Robbie Sawitski, or Nancy Vermeulen know. We are also on the lookout for ways to improve this event .



Looking for the place to sign up?

Please see page 22. . .

ACTIVITIES AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
ROBBIE SAWITSKI, CHAIR



- Sunday, October 27, 2024 Pumpkin Sunday Potluck (see page 10)
- Sunday, December 1, 2024 All-Church Decorating Party (see page 11)
- Thursday, December 5, 2024 Advent Women's Evening (AWE) (see page 11)
- Sunday, January 5, 2025 All-Church Undecorating Party
- Sunday, February 23, 2025 Beat the Winter Blues Potluck

We are growing our team of adjunct members who like to know about upcoming events, in case they are available to assist. As our motto states, 'many hands make light the work', and sometimes AFC does a lot of heavy lifting. No obligation, ever! 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.

Thank you to everyone who continues to step up and help with special set-ups, and clean-up after events.

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

Forward Goal Planning

- Using the theme for the year “Respecting Individuals, Journeying Together” Boards and Committees are starting on goal planning. The goals will help with budget planning next spring.

Contact Information

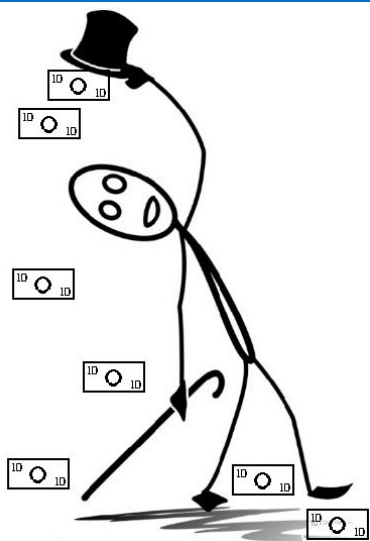
Feel free to contact any member of the Church Council with questions, comments, or concerns. We appreciate your feedback on the activities of the Church.

Next Scheduled Meetings

October 21, 2024
November 18, 2024



RAISE RIGHT - SCRIP CORNER
CHRIS VERMEULEN



We are one quarter of the way through the fiscal year. As of July 1, 2024, two families have raised \$70.00. We are looking for 1 or 2 more families to join us. How do you do that?

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](https://www.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).

I hope you will join us raise more money for Sr. High and Integrational work-trips this year. If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please contact Chris Vermeulen at cnverm@aol.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL
ELLEN RAMBO, CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR

Our Church Council is charged with overseeing all church programming. In August, we held our retreat, which resulted in the generation of the overarching theme of Respect - respect for the individual's faith journey and solidarity of a faith community (journeying together). This theme will be incorporated into the work and outcomes of our Boards and Committees. We are already seeing this theme embedded in our Council meetings with expanding collaborations amongst boards and committees, and discussing the function and size of the Board of Deacons to best meet the needs of FCC.

One of the Executive Committee responsibilities is to address Human Resources matters of the church. The Committee has been busy! Over the summer, the Executive Committee added a remote work policy to the Staff Handbook, supported Darcy to explore and put into place more efficient processes for her to monitor staff vacation, payroll, and professional development. Darcy and the Executive Committee also revisited the church's parental leave policy at length and approved Darcy's plan for Eric's expanded responsibilities and additional compensation during Lily's absence. A subgroup of the Executive Committee is working with Darcy to update the existing performance review system and documentation.

Your Executive Council Members are as follows:

- Chair of Council and Executive Committee, Ellen Rambo
- Vice-Chair of Council, Val Towery
- Secretary, Chris Vermeulen
- Treasurer, Dave Beck
- Board of Deacons Chair, Jennifer Santi
- Board of Trustees Chair, Lou Candiotti
- Board of Christian Education, Eric Nicholson



BOARD OF DEACONS
JENNIFER SANTI, CHAIR

A warm welcome to the new (and returning) deacons joining our team this year: Abby Vermeulen, Deanna Boer, Kelly Doonan-Reed, Robin Rutz, Le Nguyen, Joan Brush, Marge Stearns, Linda Dibble, Sara Eggleston and Greg Eggleston. Thank you for your service to our church!

A super warm welcome to our new Deacon Co-Chair: Sara Eggleston. Sara will join returning Chair Jenny Santi in leadership of the Board of Deacons this church year!

Help needed! The Board of Deacons has formed a new Hospitality Subcommittee and we're looking for volunteers to join!! We welcome all to join us - no prior Deacon experience or church membership is required!



Here to help

The Hospitality Subcommittee will assist the Board of Deacons with welcoming congregants on Sunday during service and with preparation and service during Fellowship Time. If you volunteer for our Subcommittee, we will put you on a list that will be contacted when we need to fill open spots on our schedule so that we can fulfill all Sunday duties that are expected from Deacons. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Jenny Santi at jennifer.lee.santi@gmail.com.

HISTORIAN CORNER

BETTY BISHOP

George L. Payne Studios in Paterson, New Jersey made the stained glass windows in the Douglas Chapel. The side windows contain rich glass medallions, which had been in Dr. Lloyd Douglas' library in Las Vegas. Mr. Charles Connick of Boston, a very distinguished stained glass artist, and other friends had presented them to him. When plans were being made for the Douglas Memorial Chapel, in memory of Dr. Douglas and his wife, it was the desire of Dr. Douglas that these medallions be incorporated into the Chapel windows. Each window has its own theme. These include the Holy Bible, the lamp of learning, and figures representing his two most famous books: Christ for "The Robe" and Peter for "The Big Fisherman." Other windows look at the Communion Cup and the symbols of Cross-and-Crown. Dr. Lloyd Douglas had been the minister at FCC from 1916 until 1921.



The Communion Window includes the Golden Chalice or Communion Cup. The Anchor of Hope is a design found on early Christian burial monuments. The medallion has a cock in vivid colors as a reminder of Peter's denial of our Lord. The saying goes "Before the cock crows this day, thou shalt deny me thrice".

The window about learning includes the lamp of learning, the owl of wisdom, and the pen of a ready writer. These are all part of the artist's silent tributes to Dr. Douglas, who was well known for his many books.



Note: Most of this information is from an excellent booklet prepared by Rev. Parr in 1955, and edited and revised by Rev. Lenz.

KITCHEN SUB-COMMITTEE

NEW FCC COOKBOOK



The last, and, we believe, only time FCC published a cookbook was in 1980. Many of us still use it, and cherish all the memories it holds. There's been some chatter over the years to create a new one, so we are announcing the kick-off of recipe collecting starts on October 27, when our first 'batch' of recipes will be collected on Sunday, at the Pumpkin Sunday Potluck. If you bring a pumpkin dish and will share your recipe, please bring that on Sunday, as well.

After October 27, the procedure for submitting recipes will be in the all-church email. We know how excited some of you will be, so we ask you to please save all your delicious recipes until then.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please let one of us know. *Bon Appetit!*

Sub-Committee Members: Pam Dabbs, Connie Nagle, Robbie Sawitski, Leslie Westbury, Chair,
Darcy Crain, Lily Tinker Fortel



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE
SUZANNE PRICE, CHAIR

CROP Walk is Sunday, October 6

You can join our team and/or donate to this important cause by visiting the FCC team page at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/the-first-congregational-church-of-ann-arbor> or by using the QR Code on page 8. On Sunday, October 6, talk to Mary Mostaghim in Pilgrim Hall after the 10:00 a.m.



service. She will be recruiting donors. Members of Mission and Outreach and FCC Kidz and Youth will gather at 1:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor 48103 to walk with other congregations to raise awareness of hunger relief in our community and internationally through Church World Service. This is Ann Arbor's 50th year of participation in CROP Walk and, the goal this year as a community, is to raise \$50,000. Please help FCC do our share!

CAN Christmas Wish Tree returns November 17 through December 8. (See page 11) We will be donating gifts to make holiday wishes come true for the children served by the Community Action Network. Please watch the November weekly church emails for information about how to participate. You may also find information by visiting the Smith Welcome Center at FCC after services.



JFS-Made Sale is Sunday, December 8. Jewish Family Services has launched a promotional effort for refugees that are establishing micro businesses. Perhaps you have seen some of their vendors at locations around Ann Arbor such as the Summer Art Fair and at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. On December 8, FCC will host a market featuring makers from this program. Many of them create specialty-baked goods and foods while others create clothing or tote bags/luggage. We will have a chance to speak with them and purchase their products, just in time for the holidays. Mark your calendars. It should be a great experience! For a link to the JFS-Made store site, go to <https://jfsmade.square.site/>.



Avalon Housing - Hickory Way

Avalon Housing Hickory Way Pantry Volunteers from FCC will resume later this year. Avalon has a social work class who will be helping them for September through November. They would like us to return for our 4th Wednesday volunteering, to continue in 2025. FCC will arrange training for interested church members and friends by the beginning of next year so that more of us have an opportunity to take part in this meaningful work. Let the office at FCC know if you are interested in the training so you can join us. We thank the following members who have volunteered this summer: Rev. Darcy Crain, Nancy Sauve, Carrie Dibble, and Suzanne Price.

CAN Backpack Drive Correction. In the September issue, we reported that our congregation donated \$1500 in addition to the backpacks and school supplies. However, our wonderful FCC group was even more generous than that, having donated a final total of \$ 2,423.44! CAN staff members are overjoyed with the supplies purchased with these funds and with the portion they will use this fall for tutoring and other student related programming. Thank you, Church!



Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SECTION LEADERS

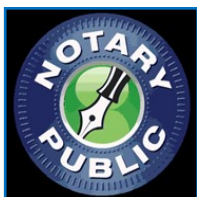


Goitse mang Lehobye A soprano hailing from Ga-Rankuwa, South Africa, Goitse mang's introduction to the opera world came through the South African Black Tie Opera Ensemble. This initial encounter ignited a passion within her, propelling her on a remarkable journey from the Ensemble's "Incubator" Scheme to commanding the grand stage as a soloist. Her mastery of opera singing is a testament to her dedication and artistry, and we are honored to have her leading our sopranos. *Welcome to FCC, Goitse mang!*

Lilian Grusz is based in Ann Arbor and is pursuing her MM in Voice Performance at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Recent local performances include Mozart's Coronation Mass and Requiem. In November this past year, she performed scenes as Iphigénie from Gluck's Iphigénie en Tauride and Contessa Almaviva from Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro. In April, she also competed in the Sam Vitale & Aaron Caruso Neapolitan Song Competition, where she received the Graduate Encouragement Award. We are honored to have her leading our sopranos. *Welcome to FCC, Lilian!*



Jabari Lewis. Hailing from Kissimmee, Florida, Jabari Lewis is a young artist working on the opera stage. Jabari was most recently seen at Des Moines Metro Opera, where he performed in Il Barbiere di Siviglia and covered roles in Salome and the world premiere of Damien Geter and Lila Palmer's American Apollo. He was also a tenor soloist in Beethoven's Mass in C. During his graduate studies, he has appeared as the tenor soloist in various oratorio works throughout Ann Arbor, including Mozart's Coronation Mass and Adolphus Hailstork's I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes. Jabari earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Florida State University and is working on a Master of Music at the University of Michigan. We are honored to have him leading our tenors. *Welcome to FCC, Jabari!*



Do you need a notary?

Our Congregation Liaison, Nancy Sauve is happy to help!

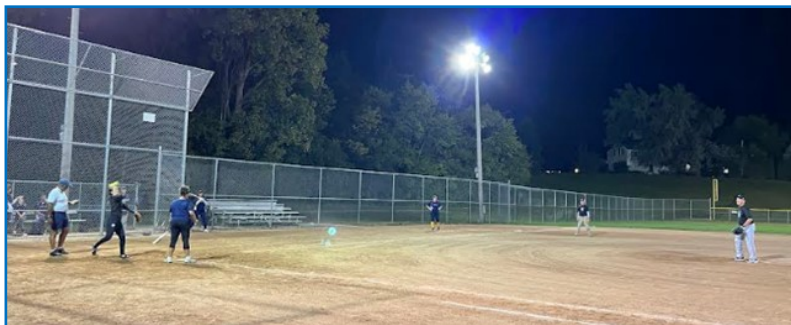
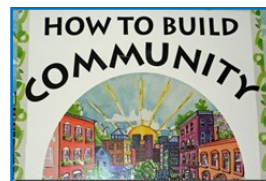
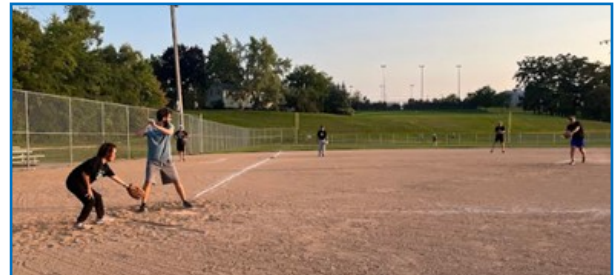
Contact her at nancy@fccannarbor.org and bring your documents to church on Sunday morning.

SEPTEMBER IN PICTURES
ROBBIE SAWITSKI

SEPTEMBER 6
FAMILY FUN NIGHT



HOLY HITTERS SOFTBALL



SEPTEMBER IN PICTURES
ROBBIE SAWITSKI

SEPTEMBER 8
KICK-OFF SUNDAY



2024 DUNCAN MCCALLUM

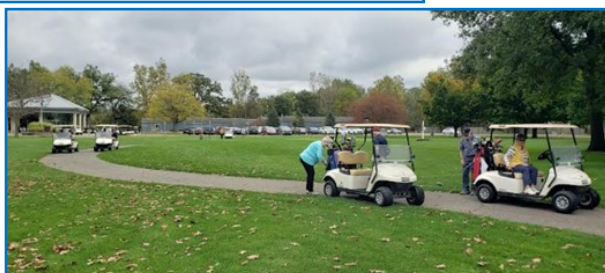
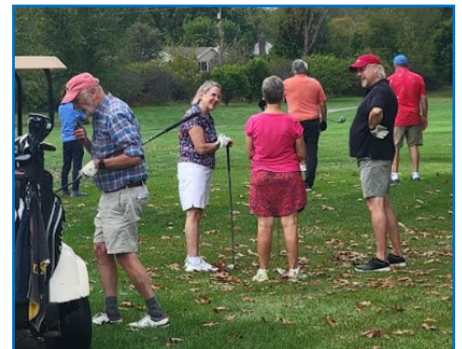


SEPTEMBER IN PICTURES
ROBBIE SAWITSKI



**2024 Duncan McCallum
Memorial Golf Scramble**
By Dave Steiner

On September 29, twenty-two golfers participated in the Duncan McCallum Memorial Scramble held at Hudson Mills golf course in Dexter. The weather was cloudy and sometimes misty, but that didn't deter the shared fun and fellowship in the least, and we didn't have to worry about sun in our eyes. Everyone went home with at least one prize, whether it was a sleeve of Duncan McCallum Memorial Scramble 2024 imprinted golf balls, or Dairy Queen gift cards (both provided by Marilyn McCallum), or Michigan maple syrup made by Dave Steiner and his brother. Everyone also enjoyed the Dexter Cider Mill's cider and doughnuts that Marilyn McCallum brought. There were a few birdies and quite a number of bogies, with the winning score of Even Par 35 turned in by the Dabbs/Jacobs team. We look forward to next year's event. Thanks to all the players who came out. **It was BIG FUN!**





Sunday Flower Donations

Thank you to those who have provided flowers for the church on Sunday. They grace the altar of the church and generally benefit someone in the church after the service, whether it be the giver of the flowers as it often commemorates a special day in their life, or to pass along to someone connected to our Circle of Friends. We have older members of the congregation that don't get out as they used to and these flowers truly brighten their day. One more tip, if you have a special day to commemorate, please sign up early. There is a sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Welcome Center or you can go to the FCC website, member resources, and sign up for flowers and/or lay reader. Please let the office know (or note it on the sign-up sheet) if you would like the Circle of Friends take them to one of our homebound members. Also, please let the office know the dedication wording for the flowers. Thank you!

There are several ways to provide the altar flowers:

1. Call your favorite florist and order a bouquet to be delivered no later than noon on the Friday before the service to 608 E. William St., Ann Arbor, 48104.
2. Find flowers and make your own bouquet whether it be from your garden or Trader Joe's/Costco/Sam's Club. If you plan to bring them on Sunday, please call the office to let them know, 734-662-1679.
3. Call the church office at least a week before the date you chose for altar flowers and ask them to order Flowers for you. You will receive an invoice from the church or pay immediately by check, cash, or online. For online payment, go to the FCC website and pay as you would give a donation. Be sure to state the intent of the money in the memo line.

Please Notice This



Looking for the place to sign up for R & R or Hospitality?

Here you go ...



Direct Link for R & R sign up.

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



Direct Link for Hospitality sign up.

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

SMALL GROUPS



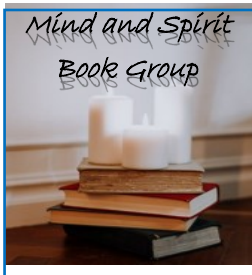
TUESDAY NIGHT SERIES ~ TNS

Please join us every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m., in the Mayflower Room 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

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

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.

This fall we will be reading:

- **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

Please contact Gail Haynes at gehaynes66@gmail.com, if you would like more information, or to be on our email list.

Fall 2024 Meetups

**Theology
on Tap**

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Friday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Moonwinks Café - Dixboro
5151 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor

Friday, November 22, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Join Us



LIVE Holiday Classical Guitar Music

Guitar music for Company Parties, Dinners, Holiday Gatherings and Celebrations
Contact Terry Farmer
734-660-4070
Terryfarmermusic.com
terryfarmermusic@gmail.com





The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor

fccannarbor.org
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 (734) 662-1679

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Timothy L. Huth
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Joshua Marzan
 Pianist
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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

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2024

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Mayflower Room
Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Koney Island
Oct 2, 16	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Oct 2	5:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Meeting, Mayflower Room
Oct 4	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Family Fun Night, FCC
Sunday, Oct 6		No Chapel Communion for World Communion Sunday
	11:00 a.m.	Hand Chime Choir Practice, Meeting Room
	1:00 p.m.	Crop Walk, Zion Lutheran Church
Oct 6, 13	11:15 a.m.	Bible 101, Mayflower Room
Oct 9	12:00 p.m.	Marketing Meeting, Zoom
Oct 9	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth Night Out, Three Cedars Farm, Northville, MI
Sunday, Oct 13	11:15-11:45 a.m.	Kids Organ Time with Dr. Tim
Oct 14	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sunday, Oct 20	10:00 a.m.	3rd Grade Bibles, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	FCC Information Session, Mayflower Room
	11:15 a.m.	AFC Monthly Meeting, Meeting Room
	1:00 p.m.	Steve and Lily's Baby Shower, Pilgrim Hall
Oct 21	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
Oct 22	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Middle and High School Youth Group at FCC
Oct 24	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Meeting, Mayflower Room
Oct 25	6:00 p.m.	Theology on Tap, Location TBD
Sunday, Oct 27	10:00 a.m.	FCC Kidz Halloween Parade, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	AFC Pumpkin Sunday Potluck, Pilgrim Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Middle and High School Youth Pumpkin Carving, Pilgrim Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee Meeting, Meeting Room
	11:15 a.m.	BOCE Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sunday, Nov 3		Daylight Savings Time Ends
	11:15 a.m.	BOCE, Meeting Room
	11:15 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour, Mayflower Room
	2:15 p.m.	Ben Gaughran Lecture at FUMC
	3:00 p.m.	Ben Gaughran Dissertation Recital at FUMC
Nov 3, 10, 17, 24		Middle School Youth Coat Drive, Sanctuary
Nov 5, 12, 19, 26	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Mayflower Room
Nov 6, 13, 20	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Koney Island
Nov 6, 20	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Nov 6	5:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sunday, Nov 10, 17, 24	11:15 a.m.	Bible 101, Mayflower Room
Nov 11		Veterans Day
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting, Mayflower Room
Nov 12	6:00 p.m.	High School Youth Service, Alpha House
Nov 12	6:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth Night Out: Friendsgiving, Member House
Sunday, Nov 17	10:00 a.m.	New Member Sunday, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	New Member Reception, Pilgrim Hall
	11:15 a.m.	AFC Monthly Meeting, Meeting Room
	11:30 a.m.	Middle and High School Youth Leaf Raking at Member House
Nov 17-25		Men's Overnight Shelter
Nov 18	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
Nov 22	6:00 p.m.	Theology on Tap, Location TBD
Sunday, Nov 24	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Information Session, Sanctuary
Nov 26		Music Committee Meeting, Location and Time TBD
	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Middle and High School Youth Group at FCC
Nov 28		Thanksgiving
Nov 28,29		Office Closed

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