

# Congregational Courier

**THOUGHTS FROM DARCY CRAIN**  
**SENIOR MINISTER**



**Dear Friends:**

“Just a closer walk with thee, grant it Jesus is my plea. Daily walking next to thee, let it be dear Lord, let it be.” In the echoes of my memory, I can still hear my grandfather’s barbershop quartet singing this old hymn. What an earnest prayer. If I’m honest, however, it’s not a prayer I’ve prayed in quite some time. I pray a lot but this specific one, it’s been a minute.

But thanks to one the longest and most significant council meetings the Church has ever had (Council of Nicaea) early Christians emerged with somewhat of a structure to Lent, and by the 7th century you’d think that Jesus himself implemented the practice (he didn’t). (Well, He kind of did with that whole 40 days of fasting and preparation before He began his ministry but, to be fair, He didn’t assume it was going to be equated with giving up chocolate centuries later).

Anyway, I digress. Lent is our yearly spiritual exercise of praying this prayer. This time is set aside to walk closer with our Lord. The time of year where we intentionally draw nearer to God.

We’ll do this together through our Lenten series titled (not surprisingly): “Just a Closer Walk with Thee.” Throughout the five Sundays beginning on March 9, we will look at five different spiritual practices that draw us closer to God: fasting, prayer, scripture, acts of service and generosity, and silence/solitude. Lily will be returning from maternity leave in time to lead us on our journey through Lent (woohoo! I’ve missed her!).

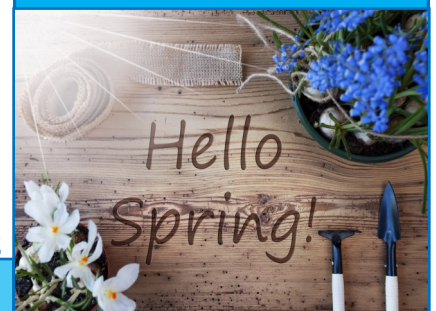
This Lent may we show the discipline necessary to block out that which keeps us from God and lean into what draws us closer to God. Each year, we approach Lent with a different ‘bag of rocks,’ we may be carrying. Some years we are grieving, other years we are anticipating, other years we are facing stressors in our greater world that seem to pale in comparison to our lives. Lent wasn’t

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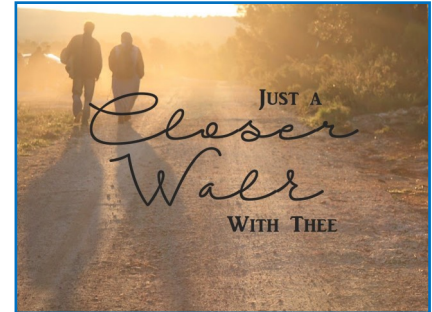
*Whatever Your Story, You’re Welcome Here*



packaged for one circumstance, but for the many circumstances of being human. We will study five spiritual disciplines but there are far more than five that can be practiced on your pursuit to walk closer with Jesus. Share where you're at through our Lenten noon prayer group, text breakfast, TNS, or other opportunity to be community with one another. Together may we walk just a bit closer with Jesus as we anticipate the joy of Easter and the melting (maybe?) of snow.

*Darcy*

Rev. Dr. Darcy Crain  
Senior Minister



Sunday, April 13	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday with Special Music And Palm Parade
Thursday, April 17	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday (see page 9)
Friday, April 18	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday Services (see page 9)
Saturday, April 19	4:09 p.m.	Change of Pace Easter Eve - Live Band Pilgrim Hall
Sunday, March 31	9:30 a.m.	Easter Communion, Douglas Chapel
	10:00 a.m.	Easter Service and FCC Kidz Easter Egg Hunt (see page 9)
	11:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall



*James 4:8 "Come near to God and He will come near to you"*

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

This holiday season was as busy as ever for FCC Kidz & Youth! Between the normal Christmas preparations, Advent Afternoon of Fun, and the Christmas Pageant, we were busy and having fun! This year we made changes to our pageant, including using adults as narrators, and we are grateful for everyone who helped, participated and attended.



2025 at FCC Kidz had a typically slow start as everyone returned to school and schedules, but the energy has accelerated! Our middle school youth joined the United Church of Christ youth groups from all over the state for a wonderful Winter Retreat in Detroit the first weekend of February. They explored themes of looking back in order to move forward, learned how to use public transit in downtown Detroit, and toured the Detroit '67 Historical Museum. FCC sent 10 youth, who joined a mighty number of almost 80 Congregational youth to dive deeper in their faith, connect in fellowship, and even worship at a historically Black Congregational Church in Detroit.

On February 7, our First Friday Family Night offered a Valentine's Cookie Decorating Party, featuring a pasta bar and lots of cookies—made from scratch! One of my favorite parts of FCC Kidz in February is making Valentine's Day Cards, which are distributed to our FCC members who need extra love and cheer. Thank you to Circle of Friends who distributed the cards to our beloved members who really appreciate the extra love and cheer during the holiday. This year heart pockets were included with candy and decorated cookies along with our handmade Valentine cards to bring extra joy.

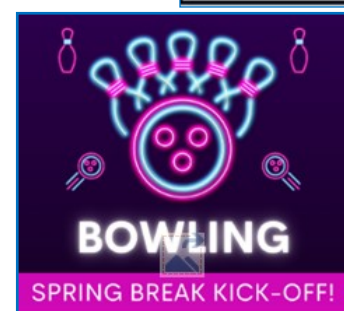
On March 7, our First Friday Family Fun Night will be Lego themed! Bring your own Legos/Duplo's, or come play with ours. We will eat dinner, build for fun, and have a friendly competition! In April, our Family Fun Night will be a service night on April 4, at FCC. Join us in doing service projects for local organizations. Dinner is included for us to enjoy together.

Easter is later this year, arriving on April 20! Hopefully, the Spring weather will be in full swing, so we can have our Easter Egg Hunt outside again! FCC Kidz on Easter is always so well attended, and we welcome more volunteers!



We are not planning to have our First Friday Family Fun Night in May due to U of M's Graduation weekend. However, at the beginning of June, please plan to attend Minute-to-Win-It Game Night on Friday, June 6 at FCC! There will be plenty of games for all ages, and dinner will be provided.

Family Camp (May 16-18) is a fun-filled weekend for all ages! We attend Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI near Lake Michigan and it is always a blast. This year Tower Hill is holding an Intergenerational Summer Camp called Climate Action Camp from June 16th-20th. Everyone is welcome to register!



I hope to see you in FCC Kidz & Youth soon!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Marina".

Marina Baker  
Children's Ministry Coordinator

**Last Minute Addition...SPRING BREAK KICK-OFF**  
**FCC Middle School Youth**  
**March 22, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.**  
\$16/student (cost can be covered if prohibitive)  
Glow bowling, arcade games, and snacks!  
Station 300, 830 Woodland Dr., Saline, MI  
RSVP by emailing Marina at [marina@fccannarbor.org](mailto:marina@fccannarbor.org)  
or by scanning the QR code.



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



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](mailto: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



Notes from a pantry volunteer...

She was young and dressed casually. When I called her name to shop, she greeted me with a smile. When I asked her if she had visited the pantry before, she responded that she had actually volunteered here as part of a college class in public health to learn about local resources. She was a college grad from U of M. She said she had been working but had a serious car accident and lost her job with a prolonged recovery. As we moved through the various stations in the pantry, we talked about her recovery, her trying to eat healthy food on her limited budget, and how she is now starting to look for jobs again. She shared that she had lost her confidence in her abilities through this ordeal. As we completed shopping, we gave her a few resources for counseling and job assistance. I shared that I would be praying for her. She left with a couple bags of groceries, and a big dose of HOPE.

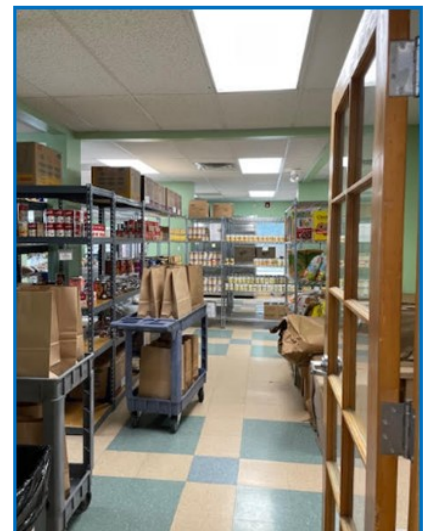


All kinds of people visit food pantries, seniors on limited incomes, college students, recent immigrants, the disabled and those with mental illness, working parents with multiple children...All are God's children and are met with a smile.

Food pantries operate year round, and donated items are put to use right away. Please consider donating:

Meals in a can (ravioli, hearty soups, beef stew), Cereal and Oatmeal, Canned beans and meat, Pastas, Peanut butter and jelly, Dish soap, Toothpaste (regular size)

*thank you!*



## FCC CORE VALUES STORIES



Thank you to all those who provided coats during the November Coat Drive by the Middle School Youth. We collected **66 coats** for donation to JFS and House by the Side of the Road. Thank you to **Greg and Mary Jackson, Dave Seaman, and Helen Zylman** for taking the coats to their destination. If you still want to bring in items, please do. We can still get them out to people in need.

~ Chris Vermeulen

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

~ Matthew 25:40

### M & O CAN Tree

A Thank You to Our Amazing Community! We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who generously donated to the Christmas Wish Tree for the Community Action Network (CAN)!

Thanks to your incredible kindness and generosity, CAN had a very successful holiday season with donations. Your thoughtful gifts have made a significant difference, and we could not be more proud of how our FCC family came together to make this happen. Your contributions genuinely reflect the caring spirit of our community. Together, we've helped brighten the holidays for those in need. Thank you for showing up in such a meaningful way!



### FCC Undecorating Party



A huge thank you to everyone who helped remove the Christmas decorations and lovingly restore the Sanctuary and the church to its serene, beautiful state. Your time, effort, and teamwork genuinely mean the world! Thank you to Scott Allen and his team for stepping up and taking down the manger. Your strength and determination made it happen. A special shout out to Robbie and George for preparing a delicious lunch that nourished our bodies and spirits. It was the perfect way to wrap up a wonderful day. We're so blessed to have such a caring and dedicated community!

### FCC Youth Retreat in Detroit

A huge thank you to Christine Martinez and Travis Bollenbacher for dedicating their weekend to the youth retreat in Detroit! From spending the day guiding and supporting our confirmands to braving an overnight stay on a gym floor with 80 other kids and their chaperones, their hearts for youth ministry shone brightly.



Discipleship

*We appreciate you both — you're amazing!*

### FCC Food Pantry

Thanks to all who have contributed to filling our Food Pantry shelves! These items are put to use right away. This picture shows a recent delivery to the Hope Clinic food pantry. Who comes to a food pantry? Those working at low-paying jobs, seniors on fixed incomes, college students, the unemployed, and families with children.



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## FCC CORE VALUES STORIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Our Volunteer Spotlight shines brightly on the incredible mentors, Rick Reid, Colleen Creal, Kelly Caputo, Monica Brancheau, and Betty Jahnke, who are guiding this year's confirmands. Your dedication to teaching, guiding, and answering questions is a true gift. Thank you for saying "yes" to this important role and walking alongside four FCC youth as they grow in faith and embark on their spiritual journey. Your

impact is immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for the love and wisdom you share.



We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all the volunteers who took time out of their week to support the Warming Shelter by volunteering or donating supplies. Your generosity and dedication made this another successful and impactful year.

A special thanks goes to **Pam, Leslie, and Kate**. Your hard work organizing, leading the team throughout the day, cooking, cleaning, and doing everything in between didn't go unnoticed. We are so fortunate to have you in our community; your efforts have made a difference!



*Thank you again to everyone involved. Your kindness and support mean the world.*



A heartfelt thank you to these talented lay members of the choir who filled our Sunday with beautiful music! Despite the winter storm, these gifted individuals brought warmth and joy to the Sanctuary. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated musicians in our community. Your gifts uplift and inspire us all—thank you!

Lay Choristers: Alex, Jean Cares, Paul Fossum, Terry Foster, Diane O'Connell, Elsie Ordinario, Dave Smith, and Meghan Wysocki.



*"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."*

### 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!

Please Notice This



*If you have a story that you would like to share that reflects an aspect of our FCC Core Identity, please submit it to [robbiesawitski@gmail.com](mailto:robbiesawitski@gmail.com). This is who we are...let's share our stories together!*



**FCC UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025 AND BEYOND**

**Lenten Prayer &  
 Reflection**

**March 6 - April 10**  
**Thursdays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Join us on Thursdays during Lent, beginning March 6 at noon, as we practice devotional spiritual discipline together. Working through the daily devotional "Into the Deep," we will pray, look at scripture, and consider the many spiritual themes of Lent and how they interact with the intricacies of our lives. Sessions will be led by either Darcy, Lily, or sometimes both clergy. You may join in person or online in the Mayflower Room; the meetings will be hybrid.

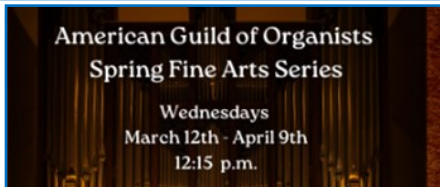
**Daylight Saving Time Starts**  
**Sunday, March 9, 2:00 a.m.**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on March 9, 2025 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.



**JFS Made Market Returns!**  
**Sunday, March 9 - 11:00 a.m. - Pilgrim Hall**

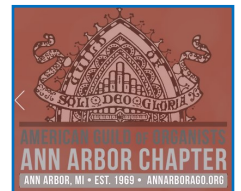
The last time they were here was so well received that, once again, the JFS Made Market will be bringing their creations to FCC. JFS Made supports refugee entrepreneurs and other small business owners by connecting them with market opportunities to sell their products at local community events, Farmer's Markets, the JFS Made website, and inside the JFS Made store. JFS Made is a collection of brands and creations by JFS clients for their community. JFS Made allows our clients the opportunity to gain visibility, test their product, build an audience, and begin to grow their business and start the building blocks of becoming economically self-sufficient. *Please check them out!*



**AGO Spring Fine Arts Series**  
**Wednesdays, March 12 - April 10, 12:15 p.m., FCC Sanctuary**

Please join us on Wednesdays in Lent for a time of personal reflection and connection to spirit through the gift of music.

The Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists exists to support and foster the enrichment of lives through organ and choral music. From concert hall to masterclass to church organ to theatre organ, the AGO is devoted to the organ, its history, its literature, and keeping alive the organ's legacy as the 'king of instruments.'



**The First Congregational  
 Church of Ann Arbor**

**Information Session**

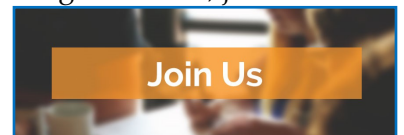
**Get to Know FCC**

**FCC Information Session** (Ministry, Deacons)  
**March 16, 11:00 a.m., Mayflower Room**

Please join us on Sunday, March 16, at 11:00 a.m. in the Mayflower Room for an information session about FCC. If you're thinking about becoming a member or want to meet new people, chat with our ministers and leaders, and learn more about FCC's values, history, and governance, join us on March 16. Food and childcare provided.

New Member Sunday is April 4.

Please feel free to RSVP to [office@fccannarbor.org](mailto:office@fccannarbor.org), if you plan on attending.



**FCC UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025 AND BEYOND**



**178th Anniversary Sunday** (Ministry, Historian, Deacons, AFC)  
**March 23, 11:00 a.m.**

*Mmmmmm...Cake and Fruit Salad!* Please come together for our anniversary in Pilgrim Hall, after the worship service to celebrate the many ways we continue to be a joyous spiritual home, welcoming and valuing all people, engaging in God's Word, and enriching lives.

**70 Years**

Dorothy Lenz  
Sallie Springer

**65 Years**

Don Majeske  
Charlene McNamara

**60 Years**

Diane Coxford  
John Lucas  
Mary Parker  
Joan Smith

**55 Years**

Dieter Roth

**50 Years**

Connie Nagle  
Elsie Ordinario Weil  
Anita Sandretto  
Peter Sandretto, Jr.

**45 Years**

Peter Allen  
Sally Allen  
Barb Chaffin  
Don Chaffin  
Sally Martin

**40 Years**

Carrie Majeske  
Karl Majeske  
Judy Rumelhart

**35 Years**

Diane Brown  
Steve Canham  
Peggy Mouzon  
Robin Myler  
Anne Rogers  
Thomas Rogers  
Bob Rorke  
George Sawitski  
Robbie Sawitski  
Ted Spencer  
Bill Winchester  
Wendy Winchester

**30 Years**

Lloyd Carr  
Jan Hack  
Colleen Spencer  
Gerry Spencer  
Trevor Towery

**25 Years**

Joan Ellsworth  
Roger Ellsworth  
David Harlock  
Dave Haviland  
B. J. Jacobs  
Claudia Keen  
Tom Keen  
Caroline Keen Gould  
David Krause  
Sheryl Krause  
Nina Rogow  
Vicki Shaw

**20 Years**

Karen Crow  
Joe Denay  
Keri Denay  
John Everett  
Gail Haynes  
Dave McNamara  
Ronson Reilly  
Greg Weeter  
Jenny Weeter

**15 Years**

Jacob Bott  
Patti Cerny  
Kelly Caputo  
Maria Dawson  
Tim Everett  
Jennifer German  
Glenn Hieber  
Al Hodge  
Donna Livant  
Alice Morgan  
Hugh Morgan  
Mike Overdier  
Roxana Overdier  
Barbara Sturgis-Everett  
Leona Webb

**10 Years**

Margaret Anderson  
Rick Anderson  
Greg Eggleston  
Sara Eggleston  
Jane Pettit  
Carolyn Webb

**5 Years**

Robert Paine



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



**FCC UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025 AND BEYOND**



**Passover Seder Meal**  
**April 13, 5:00 p.m., Pilgrim Hall**



The Passover Seder is a service traditionally held at home as part of the Passover celebration. It is observed on the first night of Passover, and in some homes on the second night as well. On both nights, the Seder concludes with a dinner. Participants use a book called the Haggadah to lead the service.

"Haggadah" means, "The telling," in Hebrew, and it contains instructions for the Seder, Blessings, and the Passover story.

"Seder" literally means "order" in Hebrew. The name comes from the fact that there are 15 parts of the ritual service, all revolving around the upcoming Passover dinner. Please come to hear the story and experience the Passover Seder dinner at FCC at 5:00 p.m., April 14 in Pilgrim Hall. The main dish of chicken with ceremonial foods and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Persons with last names of A-L, please bring side dishes; and those with last names M-Z, please bring a dessert. Please remember, no pork products, no leavening, and no nuts should be used in any of the dishes for this event. This is a wonderful chance to understand more about Passover and enjoy a special time with others from our church community.



**Maundy Thursday** (Deacons)  
**April 17, 7:00 p.m.**

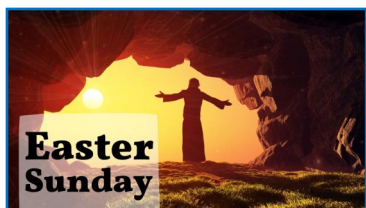
Maundy Thursday marks three key events in Jesus' last week: his washing of his disciples' feet, his institution of the Lord's Supper, and his new commandment to love one another.

We will be joined by clergy members from FUMC, Shalom, and Bethlehem UCC. Tenebrae, an ancient service, increases darkness by gradually extinguishing candles to symbolize the coming darkness of Jesus' death. After the service, people leave in silence.



**Good Friday Service at FCC**  
**April 18, 12:00 p.m.**

This is the first time that FCC is hosting the Good Friday service. Join us for a joint community worship service at The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, starting at noon. Ministers from The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, First Baptist Church, and First United Methodist Church will lead three 30-minute services (12 pm, 12:30 pm, 1 pm).



**Easter Sunday Worship and Easter Breakfast** (BOCE, Deacons, AFC)  
**April 20**

Christians celebrate Easter because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This pivotal event stands as the bedrock of Christian belief, embodying the promise of redemption, eternal life, and the triumph of light over darkness.

Let us gather together in worship on this most holy day, and, then share a meal afterwards in celebration of our commitment to loving each other as Jesus calls us to do.

**9:30 a.m. Easter Communion**

**10:00 a.m. Easter Service**



**11:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast**

## FCC UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025 AND BEYOND



#### Confirmation Sunday (BOCE)

May 4, 10:00 a.m.

In Christian denominations that practice infant baptism, confirmation is the sealing of the covenant created in baptism. Those confirmed are confirmands. In the Rite of Confirmation, the baptized person is “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,” and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. Confirmands at FCC are required to write a faith statement, which is a one page essay articulating their beliefs of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as well as how they understand the role of faith in their life. They read these statements aloud from the pulpit in front of their mentors and families on a weeknight prior to confirmation Sunday. Excerpts from their statements are used in the sermon that Sunday so all of the congregation can hear the wisdom they have gleaned throughout the process. You won’t want to miss this Sunday!



#### FCC Family Camp (BOCE)

May 16 - 18

Looking for a fun-filled weekend getaway with your family? Join FCC for Family Camp May 17-19! At Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center, you'll enjoy many exciting activities, including s'mores, bonfires, and much more.

Take advantage of this opportunity to create unforgettable memories with FCC friends! RSVP for FCC Family Camp [office@fccann Arbor.org](mailto:office@fccann Arbor.org), with Family Camp in the subject line. The cost is \$75/adult and \$50/child. This is a sliding scale based on individual family budgets. Payment is not required for participation.

#### AFC Annual All-Church Picnic, Potluck and Mini Ice Cream Social (BOCE, Deacons, AFC)

June 18 - Outside (weather permitting) Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Your AFC will be providing hot dogs and not-dogs, condiments, individual bags of chips, and potato salad for all. We won’t forget the mini-sundaes, root beer floats, and



**PLEASE**, if you bring a dish to share:

- Provide a list of ingredients (your recipe could be used in the new cookbook with the item. (see page 14)
- Please remember, **no nuts or nut products**.

Boston Coolers.

Last names:

A - M - Side Dish or Salad

N - Z - Fruit Salad or Dessert

Save the date, and plan on coming for a **Good Time!**



#### First Call to FCC Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 8, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The first notice of the Annual Meeting usually goes out at the end of May. Since this Courier covers May, this is the first official call to The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor’s Annual Meeting, the purpose of which is the presentation of the annual reports, the election of officers, and discussion of other appropriate business. Per FCC Bylaws Section 9.3 Notice of Meetings, this also serves as the required ‘*personal notice hand mailed or electronically mailed to each member of the Church at least five days in advance of the meeting.*’ The 2024-2025 Annual Report will be available May 25, 2025. Please plan on attending!

## FCC UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025 AND BEYOND

### Annual Ann Arbor Art Fair Mission Trips Fundraising Events (AFC) Hospitality Station and R & R (rubbish & recycle) July 16 - July 19, 2025

I started my new job as a street cleaner today.

There's no training, you just pick it up as you go along.

In a short time, we will get together with our trash buddies, collecting trash and recycling, and having a great time together. It takes about 75 volunteers (some doing multiple shifts) to pull off the tasks we sign up for. We can use everyone. The lead team (Dave Steiner, Chris Vermeulen, Robbie Sawitski, and Nancy Vermeulen) are happy to answer any of your questions.

Your R&R Leaders are so very proud of, and grateful for the group of volunteers who show up each year, and for some reason keep coming back, once they have tried it. You see, in all honesty, yes, it is challenging. But, it's for an amazing cause (Mission Trips), and also is a remarkably fun time, full of laughter, camaraderie, sharing our stories, and growing new friendships, as well as deepening others. We look at it as a mini-mission trip. Our Sign-up Genius is up and running. QR code and Links can be found on page 15.



## HISTORIAN CORNER BETTY BISHOP

With March being Women's History Month, I thought I would look at the role of women at FCC over the years. Back in 1856 when the new church was struggling financially a group of five women were appointed to contact each member and ask for a donation of one dollar. We assume they were successful although there is no report. Starting in 1857 women were able to vote in church matters, many years before they were able to vote in political elections in 1920. However, women were not represented on the Board of Trustees until 1931. The first woman to serve as Chair of Church Council was Ruth Jones from 1972 until 1975. More recently, women have been Chair of Council about half the time.

From the early days of the church, women were very involved in the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society started in 1872 and the Ladies' Home Missionary Society founded in 1880. Both groups were active in raising money; they merged between 1903 and 1913 into the Women's Missionary Society. At the same time, the Ladies' Aid Society was formed to support the secular needs of the church and support social activities. By the early 1900s, this group helped to fund music programs and the custodian's salary. In 1917, the missionary and aid societies were combined into the Women's Society. This group continued to work on social activities and fundraising until about 1976. More recently, women have been involved in the Mind and Spirit book group, the Missions and Outreach Committee, and the Activities and Fellowship Committee, which plans various social events for the church.

Women were involved in the Sunday School and Christian Education programs since the founding of the church. They also helped with local outreach and mission work, and tried to involve university students with the life of the church. In terms of formal ministry, Rev. Dorothy Lenz was the first woman to serve as an Associate Minister. She had been involved in church school for many years, but became the Associate Minister in 1978 and served until she retired in 1997. After Rev. Lenz, three other women served as Associate Minister for a few years until Rev. Darcy Crain came in 2008. In 2022 when Rev. Robert Livingston retired, Rev. Crain was the first woman called to be the Senior Minister at FCC.



## 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  
Ministers: Darcy Crain, Lily Tinker Fortel, Eric Hausman

#### Forward Goal Planning

- Using the theme for the year “Respecting Individuals, Journeying Together” Boards and Committees are using their budget reviews and goals to develop their needs for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- A small group of members have reviewed the Bylaws and made some recommendations that are being discussed by the Church Council. The changes are in regard to the Board of Deacons duties as they relate to membership status.

#### Next Scheduled Meetings

December 16, 2024

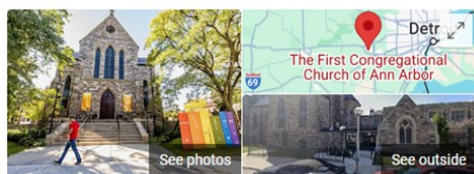
January 20, 2025

#### 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.

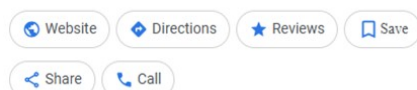
## MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE

TREVOR TOEWERY, CHAIR



### The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor

4.9 ★★★★★ 46 Google reviews :  
Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan



We created a New FCC “Who We Are”. It is available for viewing on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Ca4nNu9tnMc>.

*Please like and share!*

We need your help in getting the word out about FCC. Please take the time and leave a Google review for the Church. If you have a Gmail account, you can use that to leave your review. We’re so close to reaching our goal of 50 reviews!

*Follow us and share on Instagram!*

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ELLEN RAMBO, CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR**

Church Council invites you to participate in the joyous upcoming church events throughout the Lenten and Easter holiday and to prepare for our annual meeting in June. In May there will be an informational meeting about the FY26 budget and the proposed recommendations for updating Membership Section Article 3 of our by-laws to reflect current practices and church operations.

It came to our attention while discussing the role of Deacons that the Board holds responsibilities pertaining to membership that have neither been recognized nor performed in decades! These responsibilities were given to the Deacons early in the life of FCC, which made sense at the time. Given the growing needs of our church and our current culture, the Council acknowledged that it would be beneficial to update the by-laws to reflect the current practices and church operations.

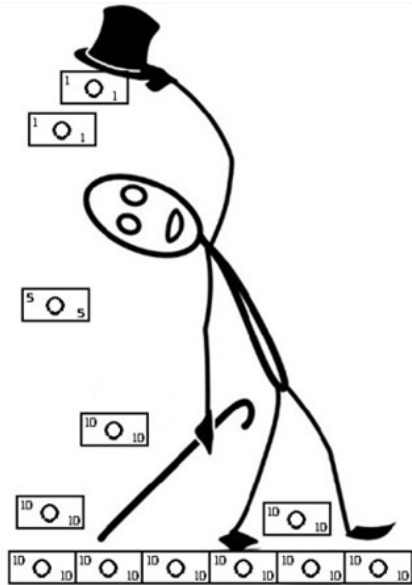
The proposed by-law revisions and next year's budget proposal will be shared with you in advance of the informational meeting.

Please consider volunteering on one of our meaningful and fun Boards or Committees. Volunteering is an excellent opportunity to involve yourself with the activities of our church based on your interests as well as forge lasting relationships.



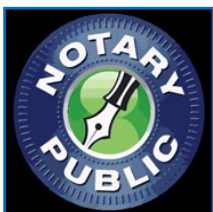
**RAISE RIGHT - SCRIP CORNER**  
**CHRIS VERMEULEN**

We are a little over half way through the fiscal year. As of July 1, 2024, two families have raised \$97.00. 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, Lowes). You can check what is available at Raise Right without having an account.
- Sign up for a Raise Right account at [RaiseRight.com](https://RaiseRight.com). The enrollment code for FCC is: 484L973E22819.
- 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 and help 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](mailto:cnverm@aol.com).



**Do you need a notary?**

**Our Congregation Liaison, Nancy Sauve is happy to help!**

Contact her at [nancy@fccannarbor.org](mailto:nancy@fccannarbor.org) and bring your documents to church on Sunday morning.

## TREASURER'S REPORT DAVE BECK

The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor			
Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position) for Period ended 1/31/2025			
(CASH BASIS)			
		January 31, 2025	June 30, 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current			
	Cash and Cash Equivalents	23,493	7,223
	Accounts Receivable	-	-
	Prepaid	3,331	-
	Notes Receivable	111,000	111,000
Investment Funds			
	Memorial Fund	224,891	208,110
	Pastoral Fund	171,896	159,812
	Music Fund (Sink)	92,657	80,993
	Program Endowment Fund	1,172,372	1,089,998
	General Fund	2,133,547	2,016,673
	Maintenance Fund	619,623	672,280
	Prepaid Expenses	-	-
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,552,810</b>	<b>4,346,088</b>
Long Term Assets			
	Fixed Assets		
	Building & Property (Net Depre	2,345,720	2,248,803
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>6,898,530</b>	<b>6,594,891</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current			
	Payables	(464)	-
	Other Short Term Payables	(12,030)	18,849
	Deferred Revenue	-	20,801
Long-Term			
	Loan Payable	713,493	728,758
	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>700,999</b>	<b>768,408</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
	Fund Balance	1,532,098	1,535,817
	Memorial Fund	224,891	208,110
	Pastoral Fund	171,896	159,812
	Music Fund (Sink)	92,657	80,993
	Program Endowment Fund	1,172,372	1,089,998
	General Fund	2,133,547	2,016,673
	Maintenance Fund	619,623	672,280
	Net Income	250,447	62,801
	<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>6,197,531</b>	<b>5,826,483</b>
	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>6,898,531</b>	<b>6,594,891</b>

## KITCHEN SUB-COMMITTEE NEW FCC COOKBOOK

Submit  
Your  
Recipes



The first FCC Cookbook, published in 1980, needs your updated and current recipes for our new edition. We are looking for your favorite recipes, including main dishes, quick meals, breakfasts, desserts, gluten-free, vegan, and dairy-free options, air fryers, instant pots, crock-pots, bread machines, and kid-friendly recipes. Please submit your recipes at the Smith Welcome Center desk, or email them to Robbie at [robbiesawitski@gmail.com](mailto:robbiesawitski@gmail.com). You can also take a picture of your recipe and email it as an attachment. If you have questions, contact Robbie, Leslie Westbury, Pam Dabbs, Connie Nagle, or Peg Jacobs.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## DAVE BECK

**The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor**  
**Income and Expense Budget vs Actual Detail (Statement of Activity)**

	7/1/2024 - 1/31/2025					
	Annual Budget	Budget	Actual	Variance	% variance	
	7/1/24 - 6/30/25	YTD	YTD	(Budget - Actual) YTD	to budget YTD	
Office Expenses	335,698	195,824	181,360	14,464		
Church Council/Stewardship	2,000	1,167	303	863		
Deacons	2,000	1,167	1,287	(121)		
Christian Education	52,863	30,837	28,270	2,567		
Mission & Outreach	47,000	27,417	6,316	21,101		
Music	103,398	60,316	55,009	5,306		
Activities & Fellowship	3,600	2,100	2,605	(505)		
Contemporary Issues	600	350	50	300		
Building Maintenance, Operation & Property	119,320	69,603	70,115	(512)		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>852,257</b>	<b>497,150</b>	<b>443,866</b>	<b>53,284</b>		<b>11%</b>
Other Discretionary Funds:	147,477	86,028	-	86,028		
Disbursements			50,000			
<b>Total Other Discretionary Funds</b>	<b>147,477</b>	<b>86,028</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>86,028</b>		
<b>Net Operating Revenue / (Loss)</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>3,092</b>	<b>72,632</b>	<b>(19,541)</b>		
Other Discretionary Funds (Investment Gain/(Loss))						
Memorial Fund			10,963			
Pastoral Fund			7,421			
Music Fund (Sink)			9,265			
Program Endowment Fund			53,296			
General Fund			63,924			
Maintenance Fund			32,946			
		<b>Total Investment Gain / (Loss)</b>	<b>177,815</b>			
		<b>NET Income / (Loss)</b>	<b>250,447</b>			

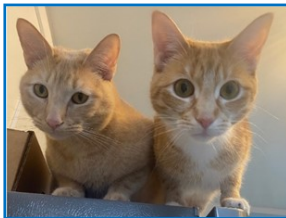
**Variance Narrative**

Revenue has exceeded year to date budget expectations by 13%, all revenue categories have performed favorably in regards to the budget with exception of general gift contributions, which is largely attributable to the non-pledge giving category.

Expenses overall have been trending under budget

Currently with the revenue and expense trend, we are performing favorably to budget, which is reflected in being under budget in our need to draw on Other discretionary funds (Trust).

**Looking for the place to sign up? Here you go ...**



Hospitality

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

Art Fair  
Hospitality Station &  
R & R Fundraising  
Event



Rubbish & Recycling

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

**BOARD OF DEACONS**  
**JENNIFER SANTI, CHAIR**

Deacons are looking for help with Sunday services! The Nominating Committee will begin work soon to help fill out our roster! We invite you to join us on any Sunday to learn more about what we do and the various ways you can join our team! Deacons are an essential part of our Sunday services - greeting members and visitors, handing out programs, preparing communion elements, assisting with collection and preparing coffee and refreshments for fellowship.

We've been working the past year with a less than ideal number of people on our roster and we encourage you to consider joining us! We promise it will be rewarding and fun! If you're interested, please reach out to Deacon Chair, Jennifer Santi at [jennifer.lee.santi@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.lee.santi@gmail.com) or Nominating Committee Co-Chair, Kristy Stoneburner at [kstoneburner52@hotmail.com](mailto:kstoneburner52@hotmail.com).



*Thank you for considering this very important ministry of FCC.*

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
**RICK MUHS AND KRISTY STONEBURNER, CO-CHAIRS**



The Nominating Committee will be beginning their work in March to fill open positions on boards and committees. Please consider volunteering. All are welcome! Even if you're not a member, there are ways you can contribute. Questions? Please contact:

Kristy Stoneburner, Co-Chair, [kstoneburner52@hotmail.com](mailto:kstoneburner52@hotmail.com), 734-330-5290

Thanks to all for considering!

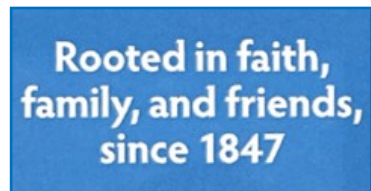
**STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**MIKE CREAL, CHAIR**



Our stewardship campaign "Let's Grow Together" will kick off in March, as we consider how we can make commitments of sharing our resources to further the mission of The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor.

Whether you have called this church home for decades, are a newer member or you've been streaming us online, stewardship is our shared opportunity to support this faith community we love. You'll be hearing more from us in the mail and in an email the first week of March.

Throughout the campaign we will be sharing members' stories that have inspired us and are hopeful that their journeys will inspire you as well!



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### SUZANNE PRICE, CHAIR

There is a lot of uncertainty due to the current administration's slashing of program staff at federal bureaus that fund local organizations. We are particularly concerned with the order to halt refugee arrivals for even those who already have approval in the system, and continuing with grants that fund summer camp counselors at CAN, or cutting staff at HUD, who approve funds for housing. We hear that organizations that help the neediest in our county are bracing for changes that are likely to hurt their clients. Our committee is working to learn where the grant funds our church has allocated for us to award can help most at this time. Already, Jewish Family Services is expanding their Nourish Kitchen that provides culturally sensitive and medically specific meals and groceries while seeking to continue their programs of housing and services for the refugees already in their programs. They are asking for volunteers for their Nourish Kitchen to help prepare and deliver meals to refugees and others on Medicaid. M&O has awarded a \$6,000 grant to JFS this February as well as funds to Corner Health that serves youth, including those of the LGBTQ+ community. As the months of spring continue, we will award more grants to other organizations.

At this time, we are considering an Easter donation opportunity for our membership toward a local organization. JFS will not need household goods for new refugees as we have given in the past with our Easter Giving Tree. A number of other organizations are seeking monetary donations and volunteers. During April, our committee will inform members of the focus of our Easter giving for this year.

#### **JFS-Made Market Returns March 9**

More vendors will come on Sunday, March 9 to sell and meet members of the church. (see page 8) The Contemporary Issues Committee will provide a speaker from JFS to describe this program and others of Jewish Family Services. They will highlight how interested people from our church can serve as volunteers with JFS.

#### **California Wildfire Relief Donation Made to the American Red Cross**

We donated \$3,559 to the American Red Cross for the relief efforts for those who lost homes in the January disasters in Southern California. \$2,059 of the gift came from our congregation's generous donations and \$1,500 from our church grant fund dubbed "Life Happens". Thank you to all who gave so generously to help those suffering losses from the wildfires.

#### **CAN Christmas Wish Tree**

Your gift items and donations for the purchase of gift cards made 25 children and teens happy as some of their Christmas wishes came true. The leadership at CAN thanks FCC for our support. With donations collected exceeding the cost of gift cards, FCC was able to make an additional donation of \$429 toward programming for the children of CAN. Thank you for your generous participation!

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

### DARCY CRAIN, ADJUNCT MEMBER

If you missed it, you can still check out our Special Music Presentation for Black History Month. On YouTube, it is under our worship services for February 16, 2025. Our chancel choir, led by our newly credentialed Dr. Ben Gaughran offered Andre Thomas's, *Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy*. Dr. Gaughran offers the following in-depth view of the composition and influence of this incredible work:

"Premiered in 2018, the work represents a bold and jubilant expression of faith, diversity, and unity. Thomas, a distinguished composer, conductor, and scholar, is widely known for his contributions to choral music, particularly through his incorporation of spirituals and gospel influences. Rather than setting the Mass text

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



**MUSIC COMMITTEE**  
**REV. DARCY CRAIN, ADJUNCT MEMBER**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

in the expected European classical style, Thomas infuses each movement with elements of gospel, jazz, and blues, reflecting the rich heritage of Black sacred music. From the exuberant energy of the Gloria to the soulful lyricism of the Agnus Dei, the work is both deeply rooted in tradition and refreshingly innovative. Throughout, Thomas employs dynamic rhythms, and expressive harmonies that engage both performers and audiences alike. *Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy* serves as both a spiritual and cultural affirmation, celebrating the universality of the Mass while honoring the distinct musical traditions of the African American experience. It is a testament to the power of choral music to uplift, inspire, and bring communities together in love and joy."

Holy Week at FCC brings more exciting work of our music ministry here at FCC:

*Save  
the  
Date*

**April 13** - Palm Sunday, during our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The FCC Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Dan Forrest's *Lux: The Dawn from on High*.

**April 19** - Easter Eve, at 4:09 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall, our Change of Pace Band offers an Easter worship experience, combining contemporary music and intermittent reflections on Holy Week and the dawn of Easter morning.

We are blessed by, and always grateful for our Chancel Choir section leaders from the University of Michigan. As we know must happen, the time comes to bid farewell and blessings to them as they continue on their professional and educational journeys. As many plans are still yet to be determined for our young talent, we wish our section leaders well as they discern their next steps.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**JANET ALLEN, MEMBER**

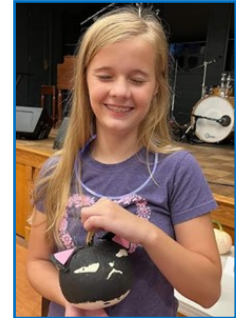
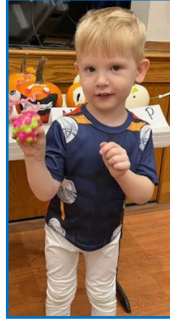
The Committee continues to respond to various needs the church building which unexpectedly happen from week to week. For example, a hose bib suddenly froze outside, and our perimeter fence was damaged one weekend, as a car slammed into it in the early morning hours. In addition, this time of year we are preparing for our special summer projects for ongoing maintenance and repair. We were pleased to have insurance cover the damage of the fence and have already received the insurance check. A welding company removed the damaged sections, and have them in their shop for repairs. When the weather is warm enough for outside painting, they will return the fence sections; weld them in place and then paint.

**Kitchen Subcommittee:** A number of organizational improvements have been made to the kitchen to get as much off the counters as possible. The large kitchen windows are in need of repair and we are working on getting bids for that work. We continue to look into changing the pizza oven to electric.

**Water Intrusion Update:** A number of modifications have been made to the chimney outside the Sanctuary wall showing water damage. Moisture readings being taken at 1-2 month intervals have shown a continual reduction in the moisture content of the stone walls in that area since the modifications were completed. The next reading will be taken the end of February. While it can take up to a year for the wall to dry out enough to do the inside repair, we are hopeful we are finally on the right track to solving this persistent issue. Repair of the plaster will be scheduled as soon as the conditions allow.

**Summer Projects:** The summer projects are still being discussed and priced but will include continuing the refurbishment of the Pilgrim Hall Windows.

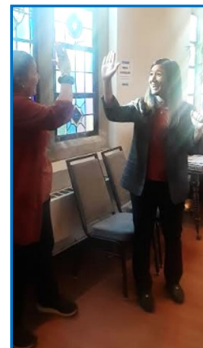
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER IN PICTURES  
ROBBIE SAWITSKI



October 4 – Family Fun Night



October 9 - Middle School Youth at Three Cedar Farms



October 27 - Pumpkin Sunday Potluck



November Gardening Angels





# DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI

## Advent Women's Evening (AWE)



## December 6 - Baby Eva's Birthday

We are shared the joyous news of a new arrival! Baby Eva Hope Tinker Fortel was welcomed to the world on Friday, December 6!



## Advent Afternoon of Fun



Oh  
What  
Fun!





DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY IN PICTURES

ROBBIE SAWITSKI



LET'S  
HAVE  
FUN

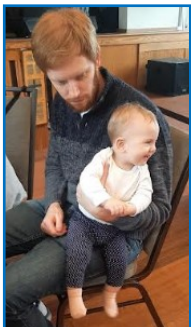
FCC Youth Ice Skating



Valentine's Cookie Decorating Party



AFC Beat the Winter Blues Potluck



Good Times



## SMALL GROUPS

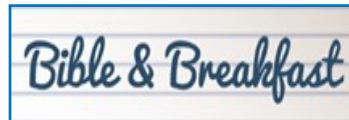


### TUESDAY NIGHT SERIES ~ TNS

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](mailto: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](mailto:darcy@fccannarbor.org) if you would like to join us.

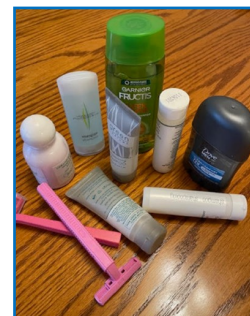


### MIND AND SPIRIT BOOK GROUP

Mind and Spirit 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 the month from 10:15-11:45 in the Mayflower Room and by Zoom. We will be reading *The Faith Club* by Idly, Oliver and Warner for our March read. The book weaves the stories of 3 women and mothers (Muslim, Christian, Jewish) and their quest to understand each other. Look for future reads in the Tuesday emails.

We are currently collecting travel and small size toiletries for the Wash Up program which offers a portable shower trailer for those who are unhoused. Please consider shampoos, deodorant, combs, disposable razors and put in the container in the Donation area of the Smith Welcome Center.

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., in the Mayflower Room or on Zoom. If you're interested in learning more, please contact [gehaynes66@gmail.com](mailto:gehaynes66@gmail.com).



# Theology on Tap

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

**Friday, March 28** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location TBD

**Friday, April 25**, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location TBD

Join Us



Please watch the Tuesday emails for upcoming locations, and join us for fun and friendship.



*"What if our religion was each other? If our practice was our life? What if the temple was the Earth? If forests were our church? If holy water - the rivers, lakes, and oceans? What if meditation was our relationships? If the Teacher was life? If wisdom was knowledge? If love was the center of our being."*

*~ Ganga White*

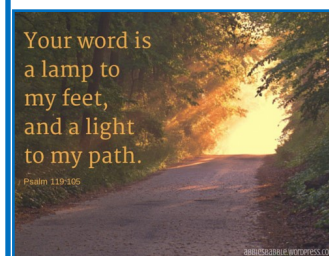
## ALL-CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Apr 20	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Service, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Breakfast, Pilgrim Hall
Apr 21	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
Apr 24	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sun, Apr 27	11:15 a.m.	BOCE Meeting, Mayflower Room
Apr 28	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting, Mayflower Room
<b>May 2025</b>		
May 2	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Family Fun Night, Pilgrim Hall
Sun, May 4	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation Sunday, Sanctuary
May 6, 13	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Mayflower Room
May 7, 14, 21, 28	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Koney Island
May 7, 21	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
May 7	5:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sun, May 11		Mother's Day
May 16-18		Family Camp Weekend (Friday - Sunday)
Sun, Apr 18	9:00 a.m.	NO Change of Pace Service
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee Meeting, Mayflower Room
	11:15 a.m.	AFC Monthly Meeting, Meeting Room
May 19	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
May 22	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Meeting, Mayflower Room
Sun, Apr 25	9:00 a.m.	NO Change of Pace Service
	11:15 a.m.	BOCE Meeting, Mayflower Room
May 26		Memorial Day
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting, Mayflower Room
<b>June</b>		
Jun 1	11:00 a.m.	FCC Annual Picnic, Pot-luck, and Mini-Ice Cream Social



our real home  
is the space we hold  
for one another  
  
our hearts were made  
to be havens  
for the hopeless  
  
let us give each other  
a place to rest  
  
let us give each other  
a place to rest  
  
let us give each other  
a place to rest  
  
~ john roedel



### 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 to be used in the Sunday bulletin 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.

**FCC STAFF**

**Rev. Dr. Darcy Crain**

Senior Minister  
734-662-1679 ext. 112  
darcy@fccannarbor.org

**Rev. Lily Tinker Fortel**

Associate Minister  
734-662-1679 ext. 111  
lily@fccannarbor.org

**Rev. Eric Hausman**

Adjunct Minister  
eric@fccannarbor.org

**Jared Peterson**

Office Manager  
734-662-1679 ext. 113  
office@fccannarbor.org

**Marina Baker**

Children's Ministry Coordinator  
734-662-1679 ext. 110  
marina@fccannarbor.org

**Crystal McBride**

Bookkeeper  
734-662-1679 ext. 115  
bookkeeper@fccannarbor.org

**Terry Farmer**

COP Music Director  
terryfarmermusic@gmail.com

**Ben Gaughran**

Director of Music  
ben@fccannarbor.org

**Timothy L. Huth**

Organist  
timothyhuth@gmail.com

**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  
*Both worship services will continue to be livestreamed online*  
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall



**March 2025**

Mar 1		U of M Spring Break Begins
Sun, Mar 2	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Time Online, Zoom
Mar 2	11:15 a.m.	Private Baptism, Douglas Chapel
Mar 4, 11, 18, 25	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Mayflower Room
Mar 5		Lent Begins
Mar 5, 12, 19, 28	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Koney Island
Mar 5, 19	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Mar 5	5:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Monthly Meeting, Mayflower Room
Mar 6, 13, 20, 27	12 - 1:00 p.m.	Lenten Prayer and Reflection, Mayflower Room and Zoom
Mar 7	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Family Fun Night, Pilgrim Hall
		U of M Spring Break Ends
Sun, Mar 9		Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 9	11:15 a.m.	CIC Program, Pilgrim Hall
Mar 12	12:00 p.m.	Marketing Meeting, Zoom
Mar 12, 19, 26	12:15 p.m.	American Guild of Organists Spring Fine Arts Series, Sanctuary
Sun, Mar 16	11:00 a.m.	FCC Info Session, Mayflower Room
	11:00 a.m.	Music Committee Meeting, Meeting Room
	1:15 a.m.	AFC Monthly Meeting, Apartment at FCC
Mar 17		St. Patrick's Day
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting, Mayflower Room
Mar 22		AAPS Spring Break Begins
Mar 22	6 - 8:00 p.m.	FCC Middle School Youth - Spring Break Kick-off (see page 3)
Sun, Mar 23		Anniversary Sunday
	11:00 a.m.	Anniversary Reception, Pilgrim Hall
	11:15 a.m.	BOCE Meeting, Mayflower Room
	11:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mar 24	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting, Mayflower Room
Mar 27	4:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds, Mayflower Room

**April 2025**

Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Night Series, Pilgrim Hall
Apr 1	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class, Location TBD
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	9:00 a.m.	Text Breakfast, Alpha Koney Island
Apr 2, 16	10:15 a.m.	Mind and Spirit Book Group, Mayflower Room
Apr 2, 9	12:15 p.m.	American Guild of Organists Spring Fine Arts Series, Sanctuary
Apr 2	5:00 p.m.	Missions and Outreach Monthly Meeting, Mayflower Room
Apr 3, 10	12 - 1:00 p.m.	Lenten Prayer and Reflection, Mayflower Room and Zoom
Apr 4	6:00 p.m.	First Friday Family Fun Night, Pilgrim Hall
	10:00 a.m.	New Member Sunday, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	New Member Reception, Pilgrim Hall
Apr 9	12:00 p.m.	Easter Luncheon, Glacier Hills
Apr 12	9:30 a.m.	Special Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sun, Apr 13	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Special Music Presentation, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Seder Meal, Pilgrim Hall
Apr 17	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary
Apr 18	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service, Sanctuary
Apr 19	4:09 p.m.	Easter Eve Change of Pace Service, Pilgrim Hall
Sun, Apr 20	9:00 a.m.	NO Change of Pace Service

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