

First Congregational Church UCC
est. April 29, 1856

March 2020

Pilgrim's Echo



Inviting, Welcoming, Connecting and Serving

Rosalie goes to the New Baltimore swimming pool regularly at 7pm in the morning. She has been going for years. It was there she met Juanita about 8 years ago and told her about our church and invited her to visit. Well, Juanita took her up on the invitation and became a part of our church family. I believe Juanita often called Rosalie her second mom.

Juanita has become very ill, to the point she is not expected to live much longer.

There was Rosalie and Jack at her bedside in the hospital, even though Juanita is now unresponsive to visitors. They are there to comfort her family.

The point is Rosalie not only invited and welcomed Juanita to church, she helped "shepherd" her through the years.

Last week a young woman, who had just lost her 18-year-old brother tragically, showed up with tears in her eyes after being invited to church. Immediately she was gently comforted and surrounded with love and care in the midst of her grief.

I praise and thank God for the wonderful family of God's people who gather together and care for one another in the name of Christ. I see it happening all the time.

Consider inviting your friends and family to church or a church event and the all of us will do our part loving, supporting and encouraging them (Studies show that 80% of those who become part of a church is because someone cared enough to invite and welcome them.)

I am also inviting and encouraging those who may have fallen by the wayside because of life experiences and circumstances to consider returning home here at First Congregational during the upcoming Lenten and Easter Season.

Together we love and serve,
Pastor B



Church Staff:

Pastor,
Reverend Henry C. Brinker

Office Administrator,
Cathy DeWulf

Office Assistant & Newsletter,
Barb Schuster

Choir Director,
Bette Carrothers

Organist,
Richard Wolf

Child Care,
Beth Robbins

Custodian,
Ralph Dunsmore

Church Council:

Moderator - Greg Harmon

Vice Moderator - Ed Kammer

Clerk - Anna Cratsenburg

Treasurer - Bonnie Kandler

Diaconate Chair - Cynthia Harmon

Trustees Chair -

Religious Ed - Sandra Wasilina

Ushers - Richard Kordas

Missions - Phyllis Maddix,
Barb MacDonald

Decorating - Sherry Cole

Technology Team - Dennis Halstead

Music Chair - Jim Parsons

Dorcas Circle - Anna Cratsenburg

G.L.E.E. - Marge Reh, Bev Reno

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Weekly Food, Fellowship and

Worship

Every Wednesday evening with
a meal at 6:00 p.m.

A \$5.00 donation is suggested.

A casual worship service with
communion led by Pastor
Brinker begins at 7 p.m.

Reservations are encouraged.

Sign up in the fellowship hall,
call the office: (586) 725-0909
or email: fccnb@att.net by 10
a.m. Wednesdays.



Please welcome the Southeast
Michigan Deaf Community
Ministry to our **April 5th** com-
munion service at 10:15a.

For information on learning
American Sign Language,
go to their website
www.asldeafined.com



Coffee with the Pastor on
Thursday mornings from
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Come in and have a cup of
coffee and visit with Pastor
Brinker.
Evening hours coming soon!

**The heart of a volunteer
is never measured in size,
but by the depth of the commitment
to make a difference in the lives of others.**

Our Pasty Sale continues through March 3.
Our volunteer workers are wonderful.....they show up when they
can and stay until the work is done. Their commitment is real.
They enjoy the fellowship as they work side by side with church
friends and new friends!

Their commitment makes a huge difference in the financial
support of our church, and that would not be possible without
the help of our volunteers!!



Ash Wednesday is February 26. There will be a meal
(prepared by Penne Lane) at 6p.m. in the dining hall and
a traditional Ash Wednesday service with communion
and the choir singing at 6:45p in the Sanctuary.

Please call the office (586 725-0909) to make your
dinner reservation. \$5.00 donation is appreciated.

Important Information:

Beginning on Ash Wednesday our meals will begin as usual at 6 pm
with worship at **6:45 pm** Instead of 7pm.

During Lent, we will have Voices from the Passion on Sundays. If
anyone is interested call the office or talk to Pastor Brinker. Also
looking for people who might want to participate in short dramas.

Communion Change:

We are going to come forward and receive communion by intinction
on a trial basis over the next three months. Communion will be taken
to those in the pew who find it hard to get up and move around. We
will still have gluten-free bread and the choice between wine and
grape juice. Remember everyone is welcome, even children at the
discretion of the parents or they can simply receive a blessing.

Dorcas Circle will meet on Wednesday March 4 at 12 noon. All ladies are welcome to join us....bring your lunch and beverages and dessert will be provided by this month's hostess.

Ladies: mark your calendar: Dorcas Circle will be hosting a Fashion Show/Luncheon on Saturday April 25th.....watch for details in the bulletin.

G.L.E.E. (God's ladies-Evening Edition) will meet Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 pm in the dining hall to make homemade and original Easter cards to send to our church friends. Bring a small pair of scissors and double sided tape if possible. No experience is needed and there will be help available. An extra bonus is fellowship and food. Give us a try.

**Ladies: Save the Date - June 12-14
For the UCC Women of MI weekend retreat "The Gathering".**

More details to follow or see April Reh (586 291-8827
Or Marge Reh (586 949-4091) for more information.

ECHO deadline:

The **deadline** for the **April 2020 Echo** is Monday, **March 16**. Please submit all articles/announcements to Barb Schuster at baschu65@att.net or the church office at fccnb@att.net.

The Monthly **Pilgrim's Echo** is available on our website under the newsletter tab.

Web Address:
1stcongregationalchurch.org



Like us on Facebook

If you wish to receive your Pilgrim's Echo via e-mail, please notify Barb Schuster at baschu65@att.net or the church office at fccnb@att.net.

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ONLINE

We now offer e-giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. You may also designate which fund you would like your contribution to go to. Simply follow these easy steps:

- Visit the church website at www.1stcongregationalchurch.org
- Click on the green "E- Giving" button,
- Click on the Create Profile button, then
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions. You may also make one time contributions by designating the fund of choice from the list provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy DeWulf or Barb Schuster.



Don't forget to go to Joe's for your car wash, then go to www.joeschesterfield.com, click on "Charity", fill in your name & email address and choose First Congregational Church, New Baltimore from the pull down Charity menu. It's as simple as that!
Not only do you get a beautifully clean car, our church benefits from it. Since 2013, we have received \$7,333.00 from Joe's Car Wash.

Religious Trivia:

Q: Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A: Samson. He brought the house down!

March birthdays

08 Terry McIlhargey
09 Phyllis Maddix
Ed Kammer
Gerry Pielack
20 Madeline Meldrum
25 Deb McCray
26 Sandy Wasilina

March Anniversaries -

29 Tom & Terry McIlhargey

If you would like to be a part of our telephone prayer chain or would like to add someone to the chain, Please contact Rosalie LeRoy at 586-725-0743.

Please remember our shut-ins and those recuperating:

*Bev Harwood
Sharon Kuykendall
Jesse Thompson*

Sharon Kuykendall -

33713 Bayview Dr #41
Chesterfield, MI 48047

Bob Mack -

29891 23 Mile Rd #18
Chesterfield, MI 48047

Norma Michael

29831 23-Mile Road, Apt. #12
Chesterfield, MI 48047

Sue McPhedran

40844 Fuller
Chesterfield, MI 48051

Mission News

Thanks to all of you for your generous donations for Blanket Sunday. We collected \$719.00.

Please remember to "count your blessing" by adding coins (or bills) to your Blessing Bag. The Bags can be returned on Easter Sunday or April 19, the week after Easter. This year our collection will again go to the Macomb Warming Center. If you are not able to add anything to the bag that is fine but please return the bag so it can be used again the next Lenten season.

March 22nd will be a collection for One Great Hour of Share.

Our Mother's Day project will be collecting child and teen sized throws for Big Family of Michigan and their initiative of putting together Christmas gifts for foster children. If you come across any reasonably priced throws and would like to purchase one, or a few, we will get them to Big Family of Michigan. We would like anyone that is interested to join us on Saturday, May 16 to join us at church at 10:00 am. We will be assembling the no-sew blanket kits. We have a couple we have purchased and we will assemble those. You are also welcome to bring your own! Joann Fabrics have some cute ones so you may want to watch for a coupon.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

TWELVE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE:
LIFE-CHANGING STORIES FOR WOMEN TODAY
Meeting every other Tuesday at 6:30p.m.

This 12-session small group Bible study, **Twelve Women of the Bible**, looks at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and their implications of life today. They provide a deeper study of the Bible's most empowered and iconic women.

Sessions include:

March 10th - **Hannah:** Surrendering in waiting
March 24th - **Abigail:** Dealing with confrontation in relationships
April 7th - **Gomer:** Learning to accept unconditional love
April 21st - **Mary, Mother of Jesus:** Moving from comfort to courage

Continued in the fall:

Mary Magdalene: Transforming from outcast to follower
Mary of Bethany: Putting our faith into action
Martha: Finding our identity in Jesus
The Woman at the Well: Turning our messes into messages
The Syrophenician Woman: Approaching god with persistency and boldness

Contact Kim Green, 586 918-7842 or kjgreen64@gmail.com
if you have any questions.

You may attend any or all meetings that interest you.
Study guide is \$10.

"We want to thank everyone for all the prayers for our family members in 2019!

My brother Larry is doing better and in a new apartment in Memphis, MI. The love we feel and the well wishes are much appreciated. All of the friendships and Holiday cards -we are so blessed.

Thank you, Pam Sarney and Jim Grubb



Marlene wants to thank everyone for the birthday songs, wishes and cards.

It was very much appreciated! Love you all!!

We received a very nice thank you, signed by many individuals, for the reusable water bottles and measuring cups we collected for the Children's Hospital diabetic closet.

These items help young people learn the importance of drinking water and portion control of their food as they deal with diabetes. The card they sent can be seen on the bulletin board near the office.



February 21st thru March 3rd - Winter Pasty Sale

April 9 - Maundy Thursday

April 10 - Good Friday

April 12- Easter Sunday

April 25 - Fashion Show

May 2 -
Progressive Dinner



DINNER IS COMING!!! DINNER IS COMING!!!



The CREW is sponsoring a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, May 2nd. Everyone is welcome to join in on this festive occasion. More details will be coming in the near future.

For more information or if you think you may be interested in attending or in hosting one of the meal stops, please contact Jeannie Kammer at Jeannie.Kammer@gmail.com or call at 810-300-1787. Reservations are necessary for planning purposes.



March Serving Schedule

DATE	GREETERS:	COFFEE HR HOSTS	READER:	NURSERY:	SUNDAY SCHOOL	TRUSTEE:	CAMERA:	A/V:
March 1	Shirlee Hancock	See Bulletin	Deb McCray	Beth & Ann P	See bulletin	See bulletin	Marlene Steer	B. Cole G. Harmon
March 8	Bonnie Kandler	Diaconate	Frank Reno	Beth & Beverly B	See bulletin	See bulletin	Liz Rice	B. Schuster S. Hawk
March 15	Beverly Babcock	See Bulletin	Shirley Hawk	Beth & Liz R	See bulletin	See bulletin	Sally Sutley	B. Cole L. Rice
March 22	Kathy Vardon	See Bulletin	Alan Naldrett	Beth & Jackie R	See bulletin	See bulletin	Frank Reno	D. Halstead A. Naldrett
March 29	LeRoy family	See Bulletin	Bob MacDonald	Beth & Cynthia H	See bulletin	See bulletin	Greg Harmon	B. Cole B. MacDonald

Communion Servers Sunday March 1:

8:45a -
10:15a -

March Decorating - Stephanie Ricci



USHERS

March 1 **8:45a** - Bette Carrothers & Maggie Peacock
10:15a - Richard Kordas, Claude Sirois, Luke Sirois

March 8 **8:45a** - Chris & Karen Leduc
10:15a - Dennis Hawk, Chuck Maddix, Greg Harmon

March 15 **8:45a** - Bob & Sally Hudson
10:15a - Bob & Ann Potteiger, Dan Ross

March 22 **8:45a** - Simone Campau, Sharon Kuykendall
10:15a - Jerry Schuster, Marlene Steer & Kathy Vardon

March 29 **8:45a** - Bette Carrothers & Maggie Peacock
10:15a - Richard Kordas, Claude Sirois, Luke Sirois

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

36223 Alfred Street
New Baltimore, Michigan 48047

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
ANCHORVILLE, MI 48004
PERMIT #7



**Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45a.m. And 10:15a.m.
Open Communion 1st Sunday of the
Month and Special Services
Special Music each week
Certified Child care available
10a.m. 12noon,
for Infants thru age 4
Sunday School for ages 5 and older
following Children's moment at 10:15a.
Wednesday Eat & Pray 6p.m.
Handicap Accessible

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8a.m. - 12noon

Friday - 9a.m. — 12noon

Phone: (586) 725-0909

Email: fccnb@att.net

www.1stcongregationalchurch.org

Our Mission Statement

"Welcoming any and all, we join together in the love of Jesus,
reaching out to the community and beyond"
