

First Congregational Church UCC
est. April 29, 1856

September 2019

Pilgrim's Echo



Breaking the Silence on Mental Illness

In August I had a series of sermons and conversations about mental health issues such as depression, suicide. These are among the subjects and issues that we may feel uncomfortable with. We regularly pray and converse about all kinds of diseases but when it comes to brain diseases or mental health issues, many remain silent. This means those in despair are often left alone in their pain and suffering.

There has seldom been a time in my ministry that the response to a sermon series was so overwhelming as to the subject of mental health. It stimulated great conversations in the chancel, narthex, dining hall, hallways, parking lot, my office, and on the phone etc. I believe the Holy Spirit is trying to say something to me and our congregation. Namely, a lot of people are suffering silently with their mental and emotional pain. Perhaps we can help bring even more hope and healing in the future?

It was Jesus who paved the way in regard to a healing ministry for the whole person – not just our souls. One-third of his ministry was on healing the lame, blind, deaf, depressed, anxious, and guilt-ridden people everywhere he went. Just this past week the gospel lesson was on how he healed the woman who was bent over with a disease that left her looking at the ground and her feet for 18 years.

This brief sermon and discussion series on the silence and pain around us is not the end. It is only the beginning of finding new ways to bring hope and healing in the hurting people around us everywhere.

Glad to be part of God's healing community here at First Congregational UCC.

Pastor Henry C. Brinker



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 - Donna Dunsmore

Treasurer - Bonnie Kandler

Diaconate Chair - Barb Schuster

Trustees Chair - Chuck Maddix

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.



**Prayers for special healing
or special needs** will be
held, after all services, in
the rear of the sanctuary
upon request. These brief
sessions are for individuals
who desire healing and
special need prayers and
those who may want to lay
on their hands to share
their energy and thoughts
in prayer.



You are invited to a Church Picnic!

Sunday September 8th from 12 noon until 3p.m.

At the Walter and Mary Burke Park in downtown New Baltimore.

We have reserved the indoor pavilion just in case it rains but we can sit outside also.

Chicken & cold drinks will be provided by the diaconate and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share and also bring your own table service, Bring your lawn chair if you prefer a comfortable seat. Invite your friends and family to join us. There may be a corn hole match or two!!

Please sign up in the dining hall.

JOIN THE CHURCH CHOIR THURSDAY, SEPT. 12

At exactly 6:30 p.m., the church choir will gather for one hour in the Bette Carrothers Music for its first rehearsal of the season in preparation to sing at the second service on Sunday, Sept.

15. Every Thursday, thereafter until the middle of June, 2020, the choir will meet to rehearse to sing both services on the first Sunday of the month, the third Sunday and fifth, when five Sundays occur in a month. Also special services during the Christmas and Lenten and Easter seasons. Rehearsals are lively and you are welcome to join the fun with members Juanita Brabeau, Anna Cratsenburg, Jon Foster, Cynthia Harmon, Shirley Hawk, Ed Kammer, Jeannie Kammer, Bonnie Kandler, Jack LeRoy, Rosalie LeRoy, Charles Maddix, James Parsons, Frank Reno, Barbara Schuster, Kathy Vardon, Bill Wasilina and Sandra Wasilina. Our beloved accompanist is Richard Wolf. It's indeed a pleasurable experience.

Bette

The **Dorcas Circle** will meet on Wednesday, September 4th at Noon in the Dining Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend, and bring a friend! Please bring your own lunch. Beverage & dessert will be provided by the Hostess. The hostess will present a short devotional reading.

G.L.E.E (God's Ladies Evening Edition) will meet on Thursday September 12th at 7:30p. In the dining hall. Come and join us for fellowship, food and fun. Invite a friend to come and see what we're all about.

PASTIES R US

Mark the calendar and be a part of history in our church! The question of when the baking of pasties will begin, is common whenever I meet someone that loves them. Proudly, I say, "Soon," with the first day of sales to be on Friday, Oct. 25.

The actual schedule will be as follows: Tuesday, Oct. 22: vegetables arrive; Wednesday, Oct. 23: preparation of the kitchen, the machines and setting up of the work rooms and first day of peeling vegetables; Thursday, Oct. 24: first day of baking; From then on, the routine continues of peeling and baking and selling until Tuesday, Nov. 5. Working hours begin around 9 a.m. and selling hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Around 1,700 postcards will be in the mail the beginning of October, with phone orders called in immediately after. Our customers are eager and cannot wait to buy hot, cooled or frozen pasties. They may buy only one or a dozen. Or, more for a party or to have on hand in the freezer. We, in turn, are eager to see them again as return customers and to hear their praise of our outstanding product. Our church has had the pleasure of being a part of this fantastic project the past twenty-two years, providing delicious pasties to thousands in Southeastern Michigan. Ten percent of our proceeds is donated to charities in the area, a gift our church is blessed to share.

See you in the kitchen soon,
Bette

The **Religious Education Team** will meet on Sunday, September 1 (between services) in the classroom across from the church office. All team members and all those who are, or would like to be, Sunday School Teachers are asked to attend.



In an effort to help reduce Styrofoam waste going into landfills, we are trying out "real" coffee cups as an option at coffee hour. Another option could be to bring your own coffee mug and simply take it home to wash it.

The biggest concern is the extra work placed on the coffee hour hosts to wash and dry the cups. Please consider taking your cup to the kitchen to wash and dry.

This will strictly be a trial run to see if it works out. We are also looking into eco-friendly paper coffee cups at a reasonable price.

The Diaconate has been vigilant at trying to reduce waste that will sit in landfills for years. We try to use paper products and recyclable plastics as much as we can. Styrofoam cannot be recycled. Styrofoam cups will still be available.....we are just hoping to reduce the amount we use.

Please see a Diaconate member with any thoughts or comments on this topic.

FYI: there is a recycle bin in the back kitchen and one in the dining hall.

ECHO deadline:

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

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.

The Monthly **Pilgrim's Echo** is now available on our website under the news-letter tab.

Web Address:

1stcongregationalchurch.org



Like us on Facebook



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.

September birthdays

04	Norma Michael
07	Maggie Peacock
08	Roger DeWulf
15	Edith Leiter Cherie Atkinson
16	Rami Guerguis
17	Cora Ellen DeVinney
19	Kenneth Hancock
20	Bob Halaas Sr
21	Bonnie Kandler
25	Kayla Griffor

September Anniversaries

02	Dan & Sally Ross
03	Gerry Pielack & Theresa, Emmanuel
08	Ed & Jeannie Kammer
14	Bob & Barbie MacDonald
22	Kim & Mike Green Karen & Chris Leduc
26	Dennis & Shirley Hawk

If you would like to be a part of our
telephone prayer chain or would like
to begin a prayer,

Please contact Rosalie LeRoy at
586-725-0743.

Please remember our shut-ins and those recuperating:

*Bev Harwood
Sharon Kuykendall
Marge Reh
Bev Reno
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

.Meeting date **September 15** following the 10:15 service. We will meet in the classroom across from office.

The Mission team would like to thank everyone for their generous support of SNAP, the St. Clair Co. Humane Society. Our team will have our next meeting on September 15th. We will be making plans for the upcoming year. If you have a favorite charity you would like us to consider supporting please drop a note off in the office or email Phyllis Maddix or Barb MacDonald. We are looking for organizations to support for our giving tree. On the tree, which is put up just before Thanksgiving for about 3 weeks, has specific items that children in need would like for Christmas. If you know of an organization that services these children please let us know.

Our Church is Honored to Assist With MCREST as a Gesture of Community Service

St. John's Lutheran Church, our neighbor, housed several clients the week of Aug. 18-25, as a participant in the Macomb County program, MCREST. We, as a church, made sandwiches nightly for the client's lunches. Ham, turkey, salami, tuna and peanut and jelly on white or wheat bread were the choices. After being made, put into a baggy and a paper sack with a bed number attached, they were placed in a large box in our cooler for pick-up sometime early the next morning. Those from our wonderful church who gave time toward this cause were Dennis Halstead, Greg and Cindy Harmon, Sandra Johnson, Ed and Jeannie Kammer, Bonnie Kandler, Jack and Rosalie LeRoy, Chuck and Phyllis Maddix, Maggie Peacock, Doug and Jackie Rice, Joan Rifenberg, Marlene Steer, Pam Sarney, Sally Sutley and guest helpers Ruth Nichols and Joie Webb. This is who we are as a church, being there to help when needed.

Blessings, Bette

Please Note:

F.Y.I. We now have 3 **AA meetings** here: Tuesdays 8:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall, Saturdays 10:00 a.m. in the church basement and Fridays 6:30 p.m. in church basement.

Women's Bible Study

"Finding I Am"

Meets every other Tuesday starting
September 17, 2019 – November 26, 2019
7:00-8:30 p.m.

This is a 6-session study from best-selling author Lysa TerKeurst. We will join Lysa TerKeurst on the streets of Israel to explore the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Through this interactive, in-depth study, we will learn to:

- Trade feelings of emptiness and depletion for a more personal fulfillment from knowing who Jesus is.
- Stop living like a slave to your circumstances by training your heart to embrace the life-giving freedom God wants for you.
- Gain a better understanding of how Jesus' words 2,000 years ago are so very applicable to the answers we are searching for today.

Contact Kim Green 586-918-7842 or kigreen64@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A sign-up sheet is in the dining hall. Study guide cost is \$15.



Thanks

Dear Mr. MacDonald, the Special Gifts
Committee and First Congregational Church:

Thank you very much for the scholarship. I will be using it towards a degree in Cyber Security at Macomb Community College. My classes begin mid August and I am looking forward to them. Thanks again.

Blake Gardner



The sympathy of the church is extended to the family and friends of Ken Johnson who passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019. Visitation was held at Gendernalik Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. A memorial service celebrating his life was held at church on Thursday, August 22, 2019. Ken and his daughters, Kim and Mike Green and Karen & Chris Leduc are active members in our church.

News and Notes

Mark your calendars:

September 8 - Church Picnic

12n—3p Burke Park

Coming in October:

Pet Blessing October 12th

AED refresher after 2nd service
October 13th.

Fall Pasty dates.

Tuesday - October 22

Vegetable delivery

Wednesday - October 23

Peeling

Thursday - October 24

Baking & Peeling 9:00 a

Friday - October 25 through

Tuesday - November 5

*Pasty Prep, baking &
sales*

Please note a change in address
for:

Mary Bole

5510 Booth Road

China Twp., MI 48054

(810) 289-9091 - Home

(810) 643-3679 - Cell

Job Opportunity

Preferred Care at Home is looking for professional caregivers in New Baltimore/Chesterfield. We are hiring qualified, compassionate, reliable caregivers and CNAs who are ready to make a difference in someone's life. Please contact Sharon at 586-842-0507, ext 101 or send your resume to sharonc@preferredhome.com.

September Serving Schedule

DATE	GREETERS:	COFFEE HR HOSTS	READERS:	NURSERY:	SUNDAY SCHOOL	TRUSTEE:	CAMERA:	A/V:
September 1	Rick Curd	Available	Barb Schuster	Beth & Ann P		See Bulletin	Marlene Steer	S. Hawk L. Rice
September 8	Juanita Brabeau	Church Picnic	Simone Campau	Beth & Beverly B		Dan Ross	Cathy DeWulf	B. Schuster B. MacDonald
September 15	Marlene Steer	Music Appreciation	Jon Foster	Beth & Liz R		Bill Cole	Frank Reno	P. Maddix G. Harmon
September 22	Alan Naldrett	Decorating	Cynthia Harmon	Beth & Cathy D		Doug Rice	Greg Harmon	B. Cole S. Hawk
September 29	Shirlee Hancock	Missions	Phyllis Maddix	Beth & Cynthia H		Bill Cole	Sherry Cole	D. Halstead A. Naldrett

Communion Servers Sunday September 1:

8:45a - Kim Green, Karen Leduc and Bonnie Kandler

10:15a - Liz Rice, Jon Foster & Volunteer

September Decorating - Barb Schuster

USHERS

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

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

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

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

Sept 29 **8:45a** - Bob & Sally Hudson
10:15a - Bob & Ann Potteiger, Dan Ross



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

36223 Alfred Street
New Baltimore, Michigan 48047



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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.

(No Sunday School during the summer.)

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"

