



# Alleluia

## Christ Is Risen

April 1, 2011

### Pastor's Reflection

Easter is the central celebration of all Christians - the day Christ rose from the dead. Though this day is the one day that defines what all Christian believers must believe in order to call themselves Christian, it seems to take a back seat to our celebration of Christmas. Too bad! Let's try to change that.

Easter is a movable feast, meaning it is not a fixed date on the calendar. The date of Easter is determined thus: The first Sunday after the full moon following the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox (which is March 20<sup>th</sup>). Got that? What this means is that the date of Easter varies between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. So you can see that Easter is about as late as it can get this year.

Lent is also a movable season as it is the 40 days prior to Easter, not counting Sundays. For those of you who understand tithing as giving 10% of your income to the church, this 40 days of Lent represents approximately a 10<sup>th</sup> of each year's days. However, the 40 days was probably selected for this season by the early church because after Jesus was baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent 40 days in prayer. In trying to explain what Lent is all about I find that Frederick Buechner's words are helpful:

*"Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question 'What does it mean to be Jesus?' During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.*

*\*If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?*

*\*When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?*

*\*If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?*

*\*Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo?*

*\*Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?*

*\*Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?*

*\*If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?*

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end."

If you decide to struggle with answers to these questions you will be well on your way to the celebration of Easter.

Blessings on your Lenten Journey and have a blessed Easter! Pastor Susan

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# Staff Directory

## Pastor

Rev. Susan Webeler

Office Hours: Wed.-Sat., 8:30am-12:30pm

Office: 989-732-5726

Cell: 989-370-3767

Home: 989-732-3425

email: [pastor@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:pastor@firstuccgaylord.org)



## Secretary

Cyndie Cole

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday., 9-noon

Office/Fax: 989-732-5726

e-mail: [secretary\\_ucc@yahoo.com](mailto:secretary_ucc@yahoo.com)



## Youth Leaders

Julie Hilt and Mary Amar-Fox



## Organist

Sandra Soderberg



## Choir Director

Cyndie Cole



Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. ~Henry Ford

# Worship Schedule

Choir Practice: 9am

Worship: 10am

Sunday School: 10:15am (during service)

Coffee Hour: 11am (after worship)

**Don't compare your life to others.**

You have no idea what their journey  
is all about.

**Website: [www.firstuccgaylord.org](http://www.firstuccgaylord.org)**

# Lectionary Readings



## April

- 6 Communion, Fourth Sunday in Lent  
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- Loose Change, Fifth Sunday in Lent
- 9 Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11: 1-45
- Reading of the Passion
- 13 Liturgy of the Palms  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11  
Liturgy of the Passion
- 20 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philemon 2:5-11,  
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
- Easter Sunday, Communion
- 27 Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,  
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

## May

- 1 Communion, Second Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31
- 8 Loose Change, Third Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35
- 15 Reading of the Covenant, Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
- 22 Reading of the Statement of Faith, Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
- 29 Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21



## Liturgists

- 4 Diane House
- 10 Pete Amar
- 17 Gloria House
- 24 Jen Kassuba



- 1 Sallie Anderson
- 8 Mary Sanders
- 15 Cliff Black
- 22 Jody Chwatun
- 29 Tom Otto

## Acolytes

April



- Julia Chwatun/Cienna Woodcox
- Alaina Anderson/Meadow Kassuba
- Gavin Ball/Avery Ball
- Nolan Roundy/Ryan Anderson

May



- James and Emily Brazelton
- Zephy Boughner/Erin Rigney
- Christine Cole/Cienna Woodcox
- Amallia Kassuba/Brittany Hilt
- Duncan Palmer/Taylor Rutsalla

## Ushers & Greeters

- 3 Todd & Jody Chwatun (Up)
- 10 Roy & Cleveann Wolf
- 17 Roy Wolf and Maureen Ballenger
- 24 Cliff & Jean Black



- 1 Mark & Marlene Kersten (pew)
- 8 Larry & Evelyn Pratt
- 15 Joel & Joanie Sietsema
- 22 Vern & Maryetta House
- 29 Don & Helen Crandall

## Coffee Hour Hosts

April

- Todd & Jody Chwatun and Dale & Marina LaBelle
- Barb Myers and Roy & Cleveann Wolf
- Pancake Breakfast
- Cliff & Jean Black and Joanna Morse



May

- Mark & Marlene Kersten and Chuck & Judy Falk
- Larry & Evelyn Pratt and Mona Viviano
- Joel & Joanie Sietsema and Louanne Spearman
- Vern & Maryetta House and Terry & Diane House
- Don & Helen Crandall and Carol Leser

## Flowers for the Month

April  
Cathy Otto



May  
Maryetta House

## Notes:

### Save the Date!



The Mission/Outreach committee has asked the gentlemen of the church to organize a Mother/Daughter Banquet to be held Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be sold and the event will be open to the public as seating allows. Those without mother or daughter available surrogates are suggested.

The youth group has also been asked to take care of the program for the evening. If you have not been contacted about this and wish to help please contact Cathy Otto or Pastor Susan.

National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 5, 2011

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging people of all faiths to pray on this day. Last year all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

The Diaconate is inviting our congregation to participate in the National Day of Prayer. We are asking people to volunteer to pray for one hour in our church sanctuary. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Parrish House. The 24 hours of prayer will be from midnight May 5 through midnight May 6. A member of the Diaconate will also be present during the entire 24 hour period.

## Prayers

Frank Wilkinson  
Foster Weaver  
Jeff Killingbeck  
Ken Rudolph  
Cliff Black  
The Boughner Family



For more information the website is [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org).

### Salad Luncheon Schedule 2011

Month	Committee	Chair
April	Christian Ed	Sallie
May	Scholarship	Cyndie/Julie
June	<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	Mona/ Helen
July	Missions/Outreach	Cathy
Aug.	Trustees	Bonnie/Tom
Sept.	Deacons	Margaret
Oct.	Choir	Cleveann/Sandra

## Church of the Month



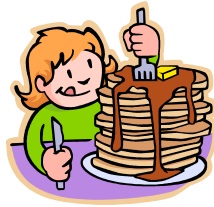
During April we are asked to pray for The Clare Congregational UCC

**From Damien:** We wanted to share some good news with the congregation there, I have been officially called to serve St. John UCC in New Buffalo, MI. I will be starting to serve on March 13th. They have provided a parsonage for us to live in so we will eventually be moving the whole family down in the summer. I have just received my official approval for licensure in the South West Association of the Michigan Conference. Just thought you might like to share that news with everyone. God Bless and take care!

## More Notes

Holy Week Activities:

April 17, after worship Annual Pancake Breakfast, suggested donation \$5.00 .



April 21, 6pm Seder Meal, please sign-up in the parish house as soon as possible.



## Community Meal

We have a new addition in the kitchen. Last Thursday the Aktion Club invited me to their meeting. At the meeting they presented the Community Meal with a new microwave. The Aktion Club is a service/leadership program in our community. The gift they gave us plus their support of the Community Meal is wonderful. Thank you to the Aktion Club.

Vicky Rigney

Co coordinator Community Meal

## Easter Celebration Flowers

This year in celebration of Easter you can make a donation towards the flowers that will decorate our sanctuary. A portion of your donation will also go towards the Youth Missions Fund.

How it will work: Beginning now you can make a donation in the amounts of \$15, \$20 or \$25 by filling out the Easter Celebration Flowers slip below and placing it

with your donation in the church offering or mailing it to the church office. On the slip there will be a place to designate that your donation is being given "In Honor Of", In Memory Of" or "In Celebration Of".

After all donations are received an Easter Celebration Garden will be created in the church sanctuary with enough flowers to be delivered to all our shut-ins.

If you would prefer to take a flower home, please indicate that on the order form. The remaining donations received will go towards the Building Fund. A great way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and also to help cheer our shut-ins.

All Easter Celebration Flower donation slips are due April 13.

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### Easter Celebration Flowers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$15 \$20 \$25

Total Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_

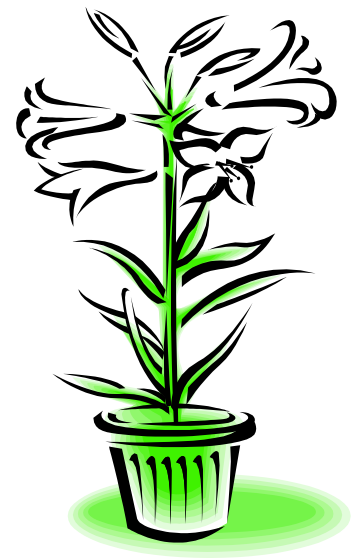
"In Memory Of" "In Honor Of" or "In Celebration Of" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to take a flower home \_\_\_\_\_



## Church Directory

Our church has made an agreement with Lifetouch Church Directories to do a pictorial directory of church members and friends.

Begin shopping for that new outfit you want your pictures to be taken in. The dates are Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. They offer a number of interesting incentives for money off portrait packages although you are under no obligation to purchase anything. Please, plan to make an appointment when the time comes, so you can be represented in the directory.

The company's representative, Ron Schmidt will be meeting with Missions/Outreach on April 7 to set up committees and finalize details.

## Diaconate Minutes

### DIACONATE MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT; Pastor Susan, Margaret Hellenberg, Lorelei Woodcox, Cliff Black, Cleveann Wolf, Evelyn Pratt, Marilyn Kaczanowski.

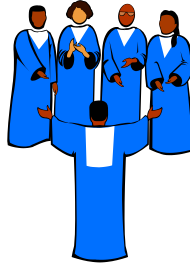
The minutes for February were reviewed and approved.

Palms for Palm Sunday will be ordered by Margaret Hellenberg.

Pancake breakfast is still be worked on.

On Easter Sunday, Lorelei will serve communion. Communion will not be served on May 1st.

## Choir



The choir has worked very hard this past year and will be going on vacation the end of June.

I am looking for people interested in providing special music during the months of July and August. If you are interested or know of someone who might like to help out, please contact me at [secretary\\_ucc@yahoo.com](mailto:secretary_ucc@yahoo.com)

Thank you all for your support.

Cyndie

## Golf At Treetops

Treetops is pleased to offer some great specials this coming golf season, check it out at [www.treetop.com](http://www.treetop.com) or see the flyer posted in the Parish House.

Besides what you see listed, when anyone associated with our church comes and brings a group of 16 or more people they will calculate a percentage and give that back to the church just for coming. It just gets better, on Tuesday after 12 for only \$65 per person you can play unlimited golf any course (based on availability). They will donate \$15 to the charity of your choice. Or play 18 for \$55 and \$10 per round will go to charity of choice, play 9 for \$35 and \$5 will be donated.

Mission Sundays were reviewed. A list for each one is listed in the February Mission minutes.

The fourth Sunday will be a second loose change Sunday. It will be used for the Friendship Shelter.

The Diaconate Committee is sending a recommendation to the Music

Committee. When a new hymn is introduced to the congregation we would like to have it sung several weeks in a row in order to learn the hymn and feel comfortable singing it.

Pastor Susan is still seeing several shut-ins and contacting people who have not been with us for a while. Cards are being sent on a regular basis. If any one has someone special they would like contacted, please feel free to let one of the deacons know.

**When it comes to going after  
what you love in life, don't take  
no for an answer.**



# Trustees

Present: John Hellenberg, Paul Kaczanowski, Tom Otto (chairman), Vicky Rigney Jason Woodcox, Rev. Susan Webeleer.

Meeting started at 8:35

February meeting minutes reviewed. Vicky motioned to approve the minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John. Motion passes unanimous

## OLD BUSINESS

Bills: Reviewed as paid by Tom.  
Bank Statements: Reviewed by Trustees  
Pastors Susan computer is in and not able to hook up to the Wi Fi at the church. Frontier (internet provider) needs to up grade the church equipment. The company is sending the unit to us. Alpine computer will set the unit up and get the Wi Fi working. They will charge us for this.

Moderator position: Still open. Cliff Black is in this position.

Custodian: There are two interested in the position. Neither one is a church member. Salary discussed ( \$50/ week) Vicky Rigney will review and develop a job description. Personnel committee will help with this.

Church door: Mr. T's to fax the information on this. An installed estimate was received in the amount of \$4751.00. The necessity of the replacement at this time was considered it was decided to table issue at this time and get some input from the congregation

## NEW BUSINESS

Friendship shelter is requesting a donation from the church. Discussion was had on how to help. Motion was made to have a second "Loose change" Sunday. It will be the fourth Sunday of the month to benefit the Friendship Shelter.

Discussion took place on the cost of completing sound system and a motion was made by Paul, seconded by John to designate the coffee hour funds to the Building Fund. The motion was approved.

Restrooms: John reports that our wheelchair access in both rooms is very adequate.

Pastor Susan reported of our continued concerns & prayers for some of our parishioners. Dan Boxwell's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming up soon. Also the Women's fellowship is planning a rummage sale on April 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be an upcoming Church Archiving Class in Alpena, more information will follow for any who are interested in attending.

The Girl Scouts and the 4-H will be using the parish house for a special event. She also discussed the possibility of producing a pictorial church directory.

The UNA will be holding a picnic for the entire northern area at the county park in August, the pavilion has been reserved.

Salad Luncheons: The salad luncheon schedule was discussed and that any changes should be decided at the upcoming council meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 with the Lord's Prayer.

Vicky Rigney



God doesn't call the qualified he qualifies the called.

# Happy Birthday

- 2 Avery Ball
- 4 Duncan Palmer
- 8 Paige Kassuba
- 11 Ali Swanker
- 16 Cathy Otto
- 19 Caroline Compton
- 22 Eden Woodcox
- 25 Keara Ball



If your name does not appear on our celebration listing, please let the office know so we can include you on this monthly birthday and anniversary page.



*Congratulations to Bruce Brown and Barb Myers*

*They were married the end of February*

*We wish you many years of happiness!*

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ Church Wish List ★
- ★ Everyday Napkins ★
- ★ Decaf Coffee ★
- ★ Dish Soap and Liquid Dishwasher Soap ★
- ★ Cleanser (i.e., Comet, Barkeepers Friend, Soft Scrub) ★
- ★ Toilet Bowl Cleaner ★
- ★ Clorox Spray Cleaner ★
- ★ Paper Towels ★
- ★ Stamps ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Mark Your Calendars!

### United Northern Association 2011 Programming

April 16, 2011 : **RE-MEMBER Summit - Gaylord Congregational Church**

10:00 a.m. Mission projects consist of three teams: the team that sends them, the team that goes, and the team that receives them. Learn how your church can participate in our outreach program to the Oglala Lakota people on Pine Ridge Reservation. If you are looking for a life changing volunteer experience, this may be it. Chat with members of last year's team and then decide if this is the year you volunteer!

April 29, 2011: **Archiving Your Church History—Alpena Congregational Church — 6:00 p.m.**

6:00 p.m. In order to know where you are going, you have to know where you have been! Are you not quite sure about what to save or how to save it? Do you wish you knew how to gather your older members' precious memories through the use of oral histories? Learn this and more at our UNA workshop. Facilitated by Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Historian, Patrick Labadie, this informal workshop will provide an opportunity to ask questions and to share your experience with the group. A light dinner will be provided. Cost: \$10 for UNA members, \$15 for non-members. (Please feel free to invite friends from other churches in your area.) Pre-registration is required by April 20<sup>th</sup>. (Contact Program Coordinator Pat Leahy @ pleahy593@yahoo.com or (989) 278-4245)

April 30, 2011: Please join us at our **UNA Spring Meeting** in Alpena as **Rev. Toby Jones**

9:00 a.m. focuses on the future church as imagined in his most recent book, ***The Way of Jesus: Re-Forming Spiritual Communities in a Post-Church Age***. Toby is a northern Michigan Presbyterian pastor, living and working in a faith community modeled after his book. His presentation is sure to challenge us and open our eyes to new ways of "doing church." The worship service will feature the **Alpena Gospel Choir**. Cost: \$15. Registration packets will be mailed in March.

May 21, 2011: **Pastors' Retreat** - Location TBA

10:00 a.m. Perhaps it would be better to call it a Pastors' Charge!!! because it is meant to be a step forward, not backward. If the churches are to move into whatever the future holds, it is necessary that the pastors be, not only on board, but leading the way. This is a great opportunity to share our excitement and voice our concerns.



New Life Pregnancy Resource Center  
2011 Dessert Auction

If you love to bake, we would love for you to bake for our annual dessert auction! If you would prefer to purchase a dessert and donate it to the auction, that is fine as well. Just keep in mind we are looking for desserts that have a gourmet flare. To help increase the money raised from the desserts, we request that all desserts be placed on or in a decorative plate, pie dish, trifle dish, bowl or stand. Please no throw away containers such as foil pie tins, etc...

Our goal is to have **100** gourmet desserts. To give you an idea of what we are looking for, these are always top sellers: specialty flavor cheesecakes, Caramel Apple Pie, Fruit Tortes, Cannoli, Trifles, Pumpkin Rolls, Flavored cakes such as Peanut Butter, White Chocolate Andes Mint, etc...

All desserts need to be at E-Free church on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:00 pm. When delivering your desserts, we need them labeled with what your dessert is and who baked it/bought it. We want to thank you for your time and would like people to know what they are bidding on. Please fill out the bottom portion of this letter and return it to the New Life Pregnancy Resource Center by April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you and have blessed day,

Bonnie Harlukowicz  
Executive Director

If you have any questions, please call or email me at  
989-732-1626  
gaylordnewlife@yahoo.com

Please Return by Monday, April 11

\_\_\_\_\_






Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_




Dessert or Desserts: \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events

April

- 7 Missions/ Outreach
- 16 Re-Member Organizational Meeting
- 17 Palm Sunday/Pancake Breakfast 
- 19 Family Potluck 
- 20 Trustees
- 21 White Breakfast  
Diaconate  
Seder Meal 
- 24 Easter Sunday 
- 26 Salad Luncheon 
- 30 UNA Spring Meeting

May

- 7 Mother Daughter Banquet
- 8 Mother's Day 
- 17 Family Potluck 
- 18 Trustees
- 19 Diaconate
- 24 Salad Luncheon 



# April 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion Worship 10am					1 Chat/Susan 10-noon	2
4	4:30 - 5:30 Brownies	5	<b>6 Breakfast BJs 8am</b>	7 Bible Study 10am <b>Women's Fellowship</b> 11:15am	8 Chat/Susan 10-noon	9
11	4-H Brownies	12	Girl Scouts 3-7pm Youth Group 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	Mission/OR 4pm Christian Ed. 6pm Lenten Soup Supper 6	Community Meal 5-6:30pm	
17 Palm Sunday Worship 10am Pancake Breakfast 11:15	4-H Brownies	18	<b>13 Breakfast BJs 8am</b>	14 Bible Study 10am	15 Rummage Sale 8-3	16 Rummage Sale 9-1 Re-ember Meeting 10
24 Easter Sunday Worship 10am	4-H Brownies	19	Girl Scouts 3-7pm Choir Practice 7pm	C M Steering 3pm Lenten Soup Supper 6	Community Meal 5-6:30pm	
	4:30-5:30 Brownies	Family Potluck 6pm	<b>20 Breakfast BJs 8am</b> <b>Trustee's Meet 8:30am</b>	21 Bible Study 10am	22 Chat/ Susan 10-noon	23
	3:30-5:30 4:30-5:30	Salad Luncheon 1:30-1:00 	Girl Scouts 3-7pm Youth Group 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	Diaconate 4pm Seder Meal 6pm	Community Meal 5-6:30pm	
	4:30-5:30 Brownies	25	<b>27 Breakfast BJs 8am</b>	28 Bible Study 10am	29 Chat/ Susan 10-noon	30
	3:30-5:30 4:30-5:30	4-H Brownies	Girl Scouts 3-7pm Choir Practice 7pm		Community Meal 5-6:30pm	UNA Spring Meeting



«Field1» «Field2»  
«Field3» «Field4»  
«Field5» «Field6» «Field7»

First Congregational Church  
218 W Second St  
Gaylord, MI 49735

