

May 2011

Pastor's Reflection

I love the image of woven cloth as a metaphor for our lives. Every piece of woven cloth is unique and has at least slight variations as the threads are woven together. We weave our individual patterns with every choice we make. Every time we choose love over hate, we weave in beauty. When we choose hope over despair, we weave in brightness. When we choose to be inclusive rather than exclusive, we weave a rich and varied pattern. When we show compassion, the hard edges of our lives are softened.

There are threads of everyday life that are often chosen for us...loss of a job, illness, an accident, flood or tornado that must be in the weave of our fabric. But we can decide how we respond and what we want to contribute. We can weave in the dark colors of despair or we can weave in the bright shades of hope. Each of the threads of our lives have a different texture, they are thick and thin, smooth and rough, there may be bumps or knots. There are many experiences that affect our lives. Days come and go and some unfold smoothly with only minor irritations. Other times are rough and tumultuous. Added together they make up the texture of our lives, the fabric of our weaving.

There are many colors in our weaving. There is the bright, vibrant color of happy active days, and the soft, muted colors of quiet, thoughtful times. Dark shades show up in our sadness and the pain in our lives. All are woven together into a multicolor, multi-textured pattern creating a work of beauty and usefulness.

We are also partners in weaving a larger piece of cloth when we are a part of a family, or part of a church congregation. Each of us bring our variety of threads and colors, strengths and weaknesses. Working together with others gives our fabric many more opportunities for variety, varied patterns and textures. Each time we interact with one another we change the structure of the fabric. Again we can bring beautiful bright threads or dark somber threads, we can bring pastel threads that bring new energy and life to the fabric.

I believe God sits at the loom and touches each thread and blesses what each one of us brings to the loom, weather it is love and forgiveness or despair and pain. I am warmed and comforted by the fabric that our congregation weaves together. In this Easter Season, sharing all the threads that come together we make something beautiful and useful. We are blessed in our lives together.

Shalom, Pastor Susan

May 1, 2011

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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



Secretary

Cyndie Cole

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday., 9-noon

Office/Fax: 989-732-5726

e-mail: 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

Lectionary Readings



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, 1 Peter 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

June

- 5 Communion, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11
- 12 Pentecost Sunday, Loose Change for Food Pantry
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b,
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
- 19 Trinity Sunday, Reading of the Covenant
Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20
- 26 Second Sunday after Pentecost, Loose Change for the Friendship Shelter
Genesis 22:1-4, Psalm 13 or Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18,
Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42



Liturgists

- 1 Sallie Anderson
- 8 Mary Sanders
- 15 Cliff Black
- 22 Jody Chwatun
- 29 Pete Amar



Acolytes

May



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

June



- RJ Hilt/Gage Boughner
- Duncan Palmer/Taylor Rutsalla
- Eden Woodcox/Alyson Cole
- Erin Rigney/Katie Amar-Fox

Ushers & Greeters

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



Coffee Hour Hosts

May

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



- 5 Jim & Julie Hilt
- 12 Dennis & Linda Raymond
- 19 Vicky Rigney and Mary Sanders
- 26 George Lienerth and John Garcia

June

- Jim & Julie Hilt and Cyndie Cole
- Dennis & Linda Raymond and Norm & Pat Dressel
- Father's Day Pies
- Pete Amar, Mary Fox and John Garcia

Flowers for the Month

May

Maryetta House



June

Marilyn Kaczanowski

Notes:

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.

For more information the website is:

nationaldayofprayer.org.

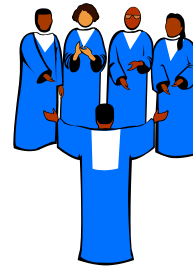
Choir

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

Thank you all for your support.

Cyndie



Prayers

Frank Wilkinson
Foster Weaver
Jeff Killingbeck
Ken Rudolph
Cliff Black
Dan Boxwell
Larry Pratt
Jean Myers

Salad Luncheon Schedule 2011

April Salad Luncheon took in \$265 for Christian Ed.

Thank-you all who donated their time as well as Salads & Desserts, you people make the luncheons possible

Church of the Month



During April we are asked to pray for First Congregational UCC Harrison

Month	Committee	Chair
May	Scholarship	Cyndie/Julie
June	Women's Fellowship	Mona/ Helen
July	Missions/Outreach	Cathy
Aug.	Trustees	Tom
Sept.	Deacons	Margaret
Oct.	Choir	Cleveann/Sandra

More Notes:

The following people donated flowers that decorated our sanctuary during Easter:

Marcella Fahselt
In Celebration Of:
The Wilkinson Family

Merry Lu Prior
In Memory Of:
Bob and Lucille Fritz, Lillian Fritz

In Honor Of
Elsie Moorehead

Barb Brown
In Memory Of:
Ruth Myers

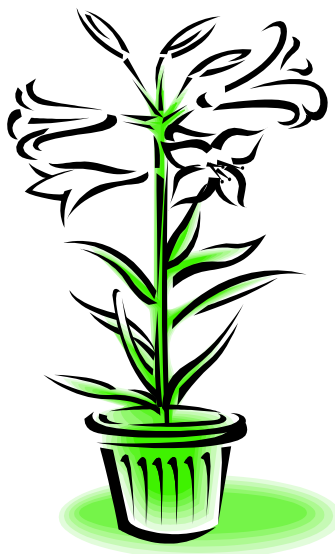
Don & Helen Crandall
In Celebration Of:
*Grandchildren, great-grandchildren &
Those on the way*

Mrs. Jane Werts
In Memory Of:
Ted Werts

Golf At Treetops

Treetops is pleased to offer some great specials this coming golf season, check it out at 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



John & Margaret Hellenberg
In Celebration Of:
50 Years of Marriage

Gary Steiner & Catherine Frost
In Memory Of:
Glenn W and M. Irene Steiner

Rod & Sallie Anderson
In Memory Of:
Loved Ones

Reverend Susan Webeler
In Memory Of:
Robert and Kathleen Webeler

Olive H. Grabow
In Memory Of:
Eugene E. Grabow

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.



Church Directory

New 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 7th and Wednesday June 8th. 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.

If you would like to schedule your picture time online, just click on the following website address, it will take you to the scheduling page.

<http://www.securedatatrans14.com/ap/firstcongregationalunitedchurchof-christ4/index.php?page=10>

Blanket Sunday

Sunday May 8 is Blanket Sunday. For \$5.00 you can purchase a heart in Memory of or Honor of your Mother, these hearts will be displayed in the Narthex.

The monies collected will be used to purchase blankets for those in need. Check out the following site for more information;

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=blankets_main

Diaconate Minutes

DIACONATE MINUTES

April 21, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT; Pastor Susan, Margaret Hellenberg, Lorelei Woodcox, Cliff Black, Sallie Anderson, Louanne Spearman and Marilyn Kaczanowski.

The minutes for March were reviewed and approved.

There will be communion on May 1st.

Pancake breakfast was much enjoyed by all and \$210 was given.

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

World Day of Prayer is May 5th. The church will be open for 24 hours. There will be someone from the Diaconate committee there during those hours, so people may come in to pray at their convenience.

Communion will be up front from now on.

God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.



Mission/Outreach

Mission Minutes

April 7, 2011

Members present, Pastor Susan, Cathy Otto, Margaret Hellenberg, Jody Chwatun, Louanne Spearman and Marina LaBelle.

The entire meeting was spent listening to the representative from Lifetouch give us instructions concerning the directory.

Trustees

Nothing to report.

Happy Birthday

- 6 Arlene Guthrie & Vern House
- 10 George Dunn & Elsie Moorhead
- 15 Norm Dressel, Jim Hilt & Dale Rehkopf
- 21 Jenny Montgomery
- 22 Pat Dressel
- 24 Julia Chwatun & Marci Evans
- 26 Roy Wolf
- 28 Gavin Atkins
- 29 Nolan Roundy
- 30 Ramona Wubbels
- 31 Alaina Anderson



- 14 Todd and Jodi Chwatun
- 15 Cliff and Jean Black
- 25 Pete Amar and Mary Fox

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.

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ 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 ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Music Festival May 14, 2011

Saturday Noon to 10:30 p.m. Gaylord High School

Stay all day – Stay an Hour – Come & Go

**Recommended minimum donation per person for all day
wristband**

\$5 at door – credit cards accepted

See program at

www.thefriendshipshelter.org

Entertainers

Michigan Northern Lights – Barbershop

Yankee Station & Melissa Wickson – Rock

Alpine Bells – Hand-bell Choir

Doug Thomas & Guy Monday Band – Rock

The Panjandrum Jazz Group - Jazz

Northern Michigan Flute Choir – Classical

Vivo Strings – Classical Chamber Orchestra

Kayenne Baur – Modern Vocals

Nancy Loushay-Helegeson – Vocals

Ruthann Kyle – Pianist

Thomasine (Tommie) Preniczky – Pianist

Vivo Duo – Contemporary Duets

The Three Plus One – Old Favorites

Food prepared and served by

Gaylord High School Culinary Arts Class

Silent auction during intermissions



Join us as we
CONNECT
our families

We need you to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you!

Rev 10/10
300-00072



Each family will receive a Complimentary 8x10 Portrait & Directory for participating





Exciting Products
turn your portraits into cherished memories



Product may vary

Upcoming Events

June

- 2 Mission & Outreach Meeting
Women's Fellowship
Crop Walk Meeting
- 5 Bible Presentation Sunday
- 7 & 8 Church Directory Pictures
- 20-24 Vacation Bible School @ the Methodist Church
Evening dinner included 5-7pm
- 21 Family Potluck 
- 22 Trustee's Meeting
- 23 Diaconate
- 28 Salad Luncheon 

July

- 7 Women's Fellowship
- 19 Glenn Steiner's Funeral Luncheon
Family Potluck 
- 20 Trustees
- 21 Diaconate
- 26 Salad Luncheon 



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
HOTLINE**

This CWS Hotline lifts up just a few of the many things that are possible with offerings and gifts to **CWS Blankets+**.

- CWS continues assistance in **Japan**
- CWS helps **Nicaraguan** communities access safe water for better health and harvests
- **Kenyan** farmers discover the benefits of biogas production
- CWS provides blankets and other items for families in need in the **U.S.**

Japan – Some 10,000 people in Ishinomaki and Kesennuma cities, Miyagi prefecture, have received food, water, hygiene items, fuel and other emergency items, thanks to Church World Service in Japan.

Your support for the Blankets+ Program helped CWS to provide emergency basic needs and services to those affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami – a disaster that may have killed some 28,000 people and displaced more than 300,000, who are now living in evacuation sites across Japan.

Among the thousands in Ishinomaki receiving help from CWS partners is Hideaki Aonuma, 33, who fled to higher ground when the tsunami came. "There were over 1,000 people on the hill where I escaped, and we stayed there for the whole night," he says. "Then when I came to see my house one day later, houses were destroyed and all furniture was washed away."

Aonuma is now staying with other evacuees at an elementary school. Such impromptu evacuation sites are hosts to scores of individuals in need of assistance, especially the elderly who can't travel very far. CWS and our Japanese partners plan to focus on these unofficial sites, as they can sometimes be overlooked.

Nicaragua – Dry climate. Environmental issues. Inadequate water supply. A perfect combination for food scarcity, malnutrition and other health problems. In eastern Nicaragua, many live in extreme poverty.

Some 200 families in 10 communities in La Conquista and Santa Teresa municipalities, Carazo department, are working to improve their lives and livelihoods, with the help of a CWS-supported food security and nutrition program of partner CIEETS (Inter-Ecclesiastic Center for Theological and Social Studies).

The families have already benefitted in many ways: Six water wells were hand-dug and equipped with pumps, and two multi-family wells were sanitized and lidded; three water capture/storage systems were installed, supplying water for irrigation systems; three community water systems were improved; forty water filtration systems were distributed, with families paying 50 percent of the cost with income from their bean crop.

In addition, 200 families planted new species of fruit trees, along with banana and plantain trees, for their own use and to sell in the market. Each family also learned how to plan where best to plant seeds, vegetables, and trees on their family farms.



Cerro Los Prados, Nicaragua --
Enjoying a new water storage tank that helps families have access to safe, clean water year-round.
Photo: Angela R-Schafer/CWS

Fifteen families learned how to raise rabbits, as well as how to build cages, using their own wood plus donated sheets of zinc and screen material. And, 105 families received seeds for a second harvest of beans. During the rainy season, many families had lost most of their first harvest due to heavy rains.

Also, 20 "health promoters" were trained on the management and use of the community pharmacy.

Kenya – By 2013, many communities in Kenya will be using new biogas digesters, with the help of CWS and partner the Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP). Through this new technology, CWS is hoping to help farmers establish some 240 biogas digesters, constructed with local materials in each community, and find out firsthand how they can make farming – and life – easier.

A biogas system produces methane gas, using water and cow manure. A latrine can also be attached to the digester to consume human waste.

The decomposition process eliminates diseases in the waste so that the slurry that remains can be used as a very effective agricultural fertilizer. Methane gas collects at the top of the digester and is kept under pressure from the liquid mixture in the tank. A gas pipe is installed in the top of the dome to collect the gas to pipe as fuel. The end result is a cleaner-burning and a byproduct to be used as fertilizer for crops.

Farmers using the biogas system no longer have to purchase firewood or charcoal, thus reducing the cutting of precious trees. Having more trees on or near a farm protects soil from erosion and holds moisture in the local environment.

Domestic Blankets+: CWS continues to provide blankets and other assistance to low-income families or those affected by emergencies in the U.S. For example, this spring CWS has provided 1,020 CWS Blankets for distribution through the First United Methodist Church, in Fargo, **North Dakota**, for needs of people affected by flooding in the region.

Also, elderly and economically disadvantaged families within the Fort Peck tribes in Poplar, **Montana**, have received 60 CWS Blankets, 150 Sewing Kits, 100 CWS Hygiene Kits, 30 Baby Care Kits, 60 School Kits.

And, CWS provided 36 CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets to Pay It Forward Ministry, in Monmouth, **Illinois**, to assist families affected by flooding in the area.

Your gifts and offerings for the Blankets+ program of Church World Service are urgently needed. Contributions may be sent through your church or directly to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Credit card contributions may be made by calling-800-297-1516 or at www.churchworldservice.org/blanketsplus. To SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE, please register at www.churchworldservice.org and indicate your email preferences.
April 2011



May 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 10am Worship Mission Moment	2	3	4 Breakfast BJs 8am Girl Scouts 3-7pm Youth Group 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	5 Bible Study 10am Women's Fellowship 11:15am Christian Ed. 6pm	6 Chat/Susan 10-noon Community Meal 5-6:30pm	7
8 Worship 10am Mothers Day Blanket Sunday Loose Change The Food Pantry	9 4-H 3:30-5:30 Brownies 4:30 - 5:30	10	11 Breakfast BJs 8am Girl Scouts 3-7pm Choir Practice 7pm	12 Bible Study 10am C M Steering 3pm	13 Chat/Susan 10-noon Community Meal 5-6:30pm	14
15 Worship 10am Reading of Covenant	16 Brownies 4:30-5:30	17  Family Potluck 6pm	18 Breakfast BJs 8am Trustee's Meet 8:30am Girl Scouts 3-7pm Youth Group 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	19 Bible Study 10am Diaconate 4pm	20 Chat/Susan 10-noon Community Meal 5-6:30pm	21
22 Worship 10am Statement of Faith Loose Change Friendship Shelter	23 Brownies 4:30-5:30	24 Salad Luncheon 11:30-1:00 	25 Breakfast BJs 8am Girl Scouts 3-7pm Choir Practice 7pm	26 Bible Study 10am	27 Chat/ Susan 10-noon Community Meal 5-6:30pm	28
29 Worship 10am	30 Memorial Day 	31				30

