

# September 2011

## Pastor's Reflection

The vessel he was making of clay was **spoiled in the potter's** hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Jeremiah 18:4

So often when we look back on our lives, especially those of us who have lived a good number of years, we have **many regrets**. "If only..." thoughts can consume and distract us for a long time after those times when something has not gone as well as we had hoped. In fact, most of us have had some hard disappointments and broken dreams. So often we feel we have to make do with the situations we have created.

At the time when Jeremiah spoke the words above to the people of Israel, they felt

like old clay that had been set aside. They had not lived up to what God had intended; being the covenant community God was looking for seemed to have been ruined by their stubborn refusal to listen to God and to do insist on doing things in their own way.

But God still had a plan for the old clay. With unlimited patience and kindness, God reworked the old clay until it took on a new and more beautiful shape. And from that reshaped clay hope for the future emerged.

We can all take heart when we realize that **when we are in God's hands, we don't have to live in a broken and ruined state, we don't have to "make do."** Somehow, through the myster-

ies of God's providence, even our failures can be renewed! Each day is a new day and a chance to start fresh; an opportunity to pick up the lump of clay and work it into something beautiful.

In this time when so often we feel the world is **devoid of God's presence** we have this hand full of clay that offers unlimited opportunities to reshape the parts of the world that our lives touch!

Blessings on your journey!!! Pastor Susan

September 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



## Worship Schedule

Worship: 10am  
 Sunday School: 10:15am (during service)  
 Coffee Hour: 11am (after worship)

A loving heart is the truest wisdom. Charles Dickens

Salad Luncheon Schedule 2011  
 August Salad Luncheon took in \$461 for the  
 Diaconate

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

Month	Committee	Chairperson
Oct.	Choir	Louanne/Sandra

## Church of the Month



During September we are asked to pray for Trinity Church of Northport. Their pastor is Rev. Karen Schulte.

## Prayers

Frank Wilkinson  
 Foster Weaver  
 Jeff Killingbeck  
 Ken Rudolph  
 Cliff Black  
 Dan Boxwell  
 Larry Pratt  
 Christine Cole  
 Sarah Dylenski  
 Pat Noble  
 Kay Huntoon  
 Hudson Short  
 Ken Job  
 Illa Kunce  
 John Garcia  
 Margaret Compton  
 Millie Manier  
 Arlene Guthrie

## Condolances

Butch & Arlene Guthrie,  
 Butch's sister Jean Grabow passed away



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

## Liturgists

- 4 Paige Kassuba
- 11 Diane House
- 18 Pete Amar
- 25 Gloria House



August



- Eden Woodcox and Alyson Cole
- Alaina Anderson and Meadow Kassuba
- RJ Hilt and Gage Boughner
- Amallia Kassuba and Brittany Hilt

September



- 2 Jen Kassuba
- 9 Cliff Black
- 16 Sallie Anderson
- 23 Jody Chwatun
- 30 Tom Otto

- Zephy Boughner/Erin Rigney
- James and Emily Brazelton
- Gage Boughner/Ryan Anderson
- R J Hilt and Andrew Brazelton
- Christine Cole/Cienna Woodcox

## Ushers & Greeters

- 4 George & Judy Dunn (up)
- 11 Mary Sanders and Carol Lesser
- 18 Rod & Sallie Anderson
- 25 Don & Helen Crandall



- 2 Jim & Kay Boughner (pew)
- 9 Tom & Cathy Otto
- 16 Vern & Maryetta House
- 23 Dennis & Linda Raymond
- 30 Dale & Marina LaBelle

## Coffee Hour Hosts

September

- George & Judy Dunn and Chuck & Judy Falk
- Mary Sanders and Carol Lesser
- Rod & Sallie Anderson and Butch & Arlene Guthrie
- Don & Helen Crandall and Vicky Rigney



October

- Jim & Kay Boughner and Gloria House
- Mark & Marlene Kersten and Jason & Lorelei Woodcox
- Vern & Maryetta House and Chuck & Judy Falk
- Dennis & Linda Raymond and Illa Kunce
- Dale & Marina LaBelle and Mark & Marlene Kersten

## Flowers for the Month

September  
Vicky Rigney



October  
Louanne Spearman

# Lectionary Readings



## September

- 4 Communion, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40,  
Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20
- 11 Loose Change Food Pantry, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:16-11, 20-21, Genesis 50:15-21  
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35
- 18 Reading of the Covenant, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, Psalm 37-45 or Psalm 145:1-8  
Jonah 3:10-4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-6
- 25 Loose Change Friendship Shelter, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9,  
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

## October

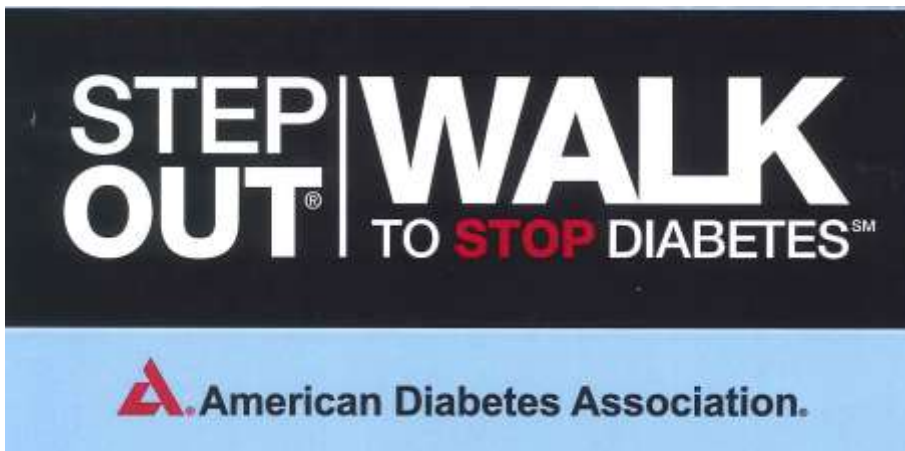
- 2 Communion, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19 or Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14,  
Matthew 21:33-46
- 9 Loose Change Food Pantry, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23,  
Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14
- 16 Reading of the Covenant, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99 or Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9,(10-13),  
1Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22
- 23 Loose Change Friendship Shelter, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18  
Psalm 1, 1Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46
- 30 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
Joshua 3:7-17, 33-37, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or Micah 3:5-12, Psalm 43,  
1Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12





## Join the CROP Hunger Walk

**Date:** *September 11*  
**Time:** *2:00 PM*  
**Location:** *First Congregational Church*  
**Contact:** *Sallie Anderson/  
Helen Crandall*



Dear friends at First Congregational Church,

Every 17 seconds, someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with diabetes. On September 17, 2011, I will be joining thousands of other walkers across the country to participate in **Step Out: Walk to Fight Diabetes** to support the **American Diabetes Association**. I will be walking as part of the **“Flight Department”** team with my

co-workers at Johnson Controls.

By making a donation on my behalf, you will be supporting the Association’s research efforts while also helping fund programs and advocacy. Sponsorship donations can also be made in honor or in memory of a

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

friend or loved one who has been affected by this disease, or can be anonymous.

Please go to my Web Page for more information or to make a secure, 100% tax deductible donation to this worthy cause: [http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/MichiganArea?px=6951247&pg=personal&fr\\_id=7866](http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/MichiganArea?px=6951247&pg=personal&fr_id=7866) .

Thanks for your support!

Jennifer A. La Belle -

Email: [gmatbee@yahoo.com](mailto:gmatbee@yahoo.com)

# Trustee Minutes:

TRUSTEE MINUTES – August 16, 2011

Members Present: Tom Otto, John Hellenberg, Vicky Rigney, Joel Sietsema, Paul Kaczanowski, Jason Woodcock, Helen Crandall, Pastor Susan Webeler; Absent: Frank Wilkinson, Todd Chwatun

Pastor Susan opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** Vicky made a motion to accept the report; Jason Woodcock 2<sup>nd</sup>; MC

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Otto presented the report and the bills. Motion by Jason Woodcock to pay the bills; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joel Sietsema; MC

The bank statements were reviewed; Tom will meet with Citizens re: new fees that may be applied to our account.

## OLD BUSINESS

Salad Luncheon-The Trustees will be hosting the August luncheon; all proceeds will go to General Fund

Budget and Income-We discussed incoming revenues and the fact that we are not taking in enough money to meet our monthly expenses. The \$101,000.00 budget was approved by the full membership; we are not receiving enough monthly revenues to meet our obligations. It was noted that annual pledges are current; open-plate contributions and fund raisers are lagging behind. A letter will be sent, from the Trustees, to all members and contributors to the church apprising them of the current situation.

Council Meeting Report- Helen reviewed the report and announced that an August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held with

Council Members and heads of all committees to address the pressing issues of the church (ie: Financial status, Surveys that will be sent from Worship Committee and Stewardship, Pastor Susan's Sabbatical planning, Nominations for next year {8 vacancies to fill})

Peace Pole – The Peace Pole has been ordered. It was suggested that we invite the Gaylord Herald Times to do an article when we place the pole.

## NEW BUSINESS

Community Meal- Our church will host and cook the meal for the Oct 28<sup>th</sup> dinner (Halloween)

Fund Raising Possibilities – Pie Sale (Cyndie Cole will chair; Jason & Lorelei will help with actual baking and purchasing supplies); Fashion Show (Youth are desiring to do this project); Letter to membership to support a “No Salad Luncheon” letter which would request a donation that would match the amount you would normally spend on the salad luncheons when we are not hosting them (from Nov – March); Consider asking for a % of all fund raisers hosted by our church to help with our General Fund; Vicky will check and see if the city is doing an “Alternate October-

fest” and if we can be involved Trustees Letter to Membership-

**In response to Mary Fox's Stewardship report and Tom Otto's financial reports, we felt that we needed to inform the church family about our financial needs at this time. Mary is projecting a shortfall of approximately \$18,000.00 for the 2011 year, if we continue as we are with our revenue.**

Stewardship Committee-We appointed additional members to the Stewardship Committee which will offer assistance to Mary Fox. We have 4 volunteers and two more who will be asked to help participate.

Sabbatical-The Council meeting will address the issue of Pastor Susan's upcoming Sabbatical (2012). Helen will dialogue with the Conference for ideas; we will do an inquiry with Committees about what assistance they will offer; we will poll the membership about hiring an “interim” or trying to fill the pulpit with volunteers and paid pulpit supply. Suggestions were offered by Pastor Susan, Trustee members, and the Michigan Conference

Rummage Sale – WF will be holding the Fall Rummage Sale September 16 & 17

Church Attendance-We discussed some marketing techniques and the need to have more people in attendance for Sunday Worship

UNA Fall Association Meeting- Hosted by Benzonia the last weekend in September; Pastor Susan will be presenting the program, along with Rev Dr Thomas Webster, UNA



## Trustees (cont.)

ACM; both attended a mediation workshop and will be sharing ideas for local churches

UNA PICNIC- The Gaylord church won the \$100.00 for most attendees but the attendance was minimal; the UNA will try again next year to encourage more participation. Those in attendance said it was fun and Marina and Dale LaBelle did a great job offering musical entertainment.

Church Picnic for our church? Suggestions were made but no dates nor place was set

Building and Grounds-Paul reviewed what has been done; we need more volunteers to help weed; the climbing vine

that takes over everything is an issue

Custodian-Comments were shared about the nice job that Sharie is doing

CROP WALK-September 11, 2011; if we have 200 walkers, we will receive an additional \$500.00; this year will be a memorable walk as it falls on the 10 year anniversary of the bombing of the World Trade Center. We are hoping for a large turn-out for Peace and Hope

Memorial-Contributions have been coming in in memory of Glenn Steiner

Scholarship-Cyndie has sent out reminders to those who may qualify for the church scholar-

ship

Friendship Shelter Fund Raiser- **Culver's will offer 10% of all proceeds to the Friendship Shelter when we eat there on Aug 22 from 5-8 PM**

Annual Review Status-Tom will submit our Non-Profit Status form; Natural Gas Renewal with DTE for 9 months; Citizens Bank fees will be researched by Tom; Community Foundation contact person will be Tom Otto

We thank Pastor Susan for sharing her peaceful patio and flower garden for our August meeting. We closed **with the Lord's Prayer.**

Submitted by Helen Crandall

## Missions/Outreach

Missions and Out Reach  
Aug-4-11

Those present were Kay Boughner, Louanne Spearman, Cathy Otto, Pastor Susan, Mona Viviano

Pastor Susan opened with prayer

The church directory is in the final working stage

Mission moment for "Neighbor

## Diaconate Meeting

Diaconate Minutes  
August 13, 2011

Members present: Pastor Susan, Margaret Hellenberg, Louanne Spearman, Lorelei Woodcox.

Sandra and Cyndie attended the meeting and we discussed several items.

in Needs" will be led by  
Louanne on Sept 25<sup>th</sup>

Salad luncheon netted us \$500. We decided to add part of the money to the teddy bear fund and the remaining funds will be used for radio ads

Mission and Out Reach will be supportive of Pastor Susan's sabbatical. She will be studying, re-

It was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person, "Always do what you are afraid to do." R.W. Emerson

They are going to start a children's choir. We talked about picking of hymns and hymnals possibly using red one week and black the next.

We did talk about salad Tues. in Sept.

Due to lack of membership no business

newing herself, and reporting back to the church periodically

McReynolds Hall has asked us to help with birthday celebrations. We are waiting to hear more

Mission and Outreach said NO to October fest; maybe an auction and dinner might be better

Next meeting Oct 6

Submitted by Mona

was transacted.

Sept. meeting in Sept 15th will be held in the church basement.

# Christian Education

Christian Education Meeting  
August 4, 2011  
Present: Sallie Anderson, Julie Hilt, Jennifer Kassuba, Pastor Susan

Opening Prayer

Sunday School  
Sunday School Rally Day will be September 11. The Youth Group will be planning and conducting special games and fun activities for the children during the Sunday School hour. Post-cards will be sent to the children informing them of this special day to kick off the new school

year.

## CROP Walk

The CROP Walk will be September 11. Registration is at 1:30 and the Walk begins at 2:00. It will begin at our church. We are encouraging all Sunday School and Youth families to participate. It is a good way to celebrate peace and love on this historic day.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on September 7th and 21st from 6 to 8. The Peace Pole will be ordered. The Youth Group will

pay half the cost of \$465 with the remainder coming from the Memorial Fund.

## Vacation Bible School

The 2012 Bible School will be at our church. Possible dates would be July 30 -Aug. 3 from 9-12.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 1 at 6:00.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Sallie Anderson

# Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship  
Aug-4-11

Those present were Dorothy Heath, Vicky Rigney, Helen Crandall, Pastor Susan, and Mona Viviano.

Helen led the worship study which was the 22nd chapter of Revelation. Revelation 22:2 was the focal verse of our study.

Secretary's report and correspondence were read.

No treasurer's report.

Four women went to Camp Ket., we did pies for Father's Day,



salad luncheon, and Glen Steiner memorial luncheon in June and July.

COMING UP; RUMMAGE SALE, SEPT 16 & 17, SETUP ON WED SEPT 14TH.

Please bring clean, usable, and working items. We will need lots of help, so watch for Mona or Helen with sign up sheet

Helen and Mona are looking for a place for our women's fall out-

ing-if you have any idea's let us know. We will be posting the time and place later

UCC Northern Women's fall meeting will be Oct 1st in Benzonia

Collection of school supplies for the local "Fill the Bus" will be our fall project. Watch for more info in the e-bulletin

Crop Walk Sept 11

Meeting closed---next meeting Sept 1st

Submitted by Mona

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

## Notice:

If you are not on the Liturgist list and would like to share your voice reading the lessons on Sunday, please contact Marilyn 231 546-3186.

## Annual Meeting

The 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church UCC of Gaylord will be held October 23, 2011 for the purpose of electing officers, approving a budget, reviewing the by-laws and conducting any other business.

Evelyn M. Pratt, Clerk

Annual Meeting will be October 23 after worship. The budget is being prepared. If you have any budget requests, please submit them to Tom Otto.

Annual Report: Please have any information to be included in the Annual Report in the office no later than the 28<sup>th</sup>.



### Oktoberfest

Once again Oktoberfest will be held under the City's Pavilion. The dates are Sept 30/Oct 01. We have been given the opportunity to sell desserts again and for that we are very grateful. We were going to miss the revenue.

To keep the desserts uniform we are making cupcakes. Baking will be done at the Parish Hall along with the apple strudels, but if you wish to bake them at home that can be arranged. This is a list of items we will be using for the fund raiser Oktoberfest. If, while you are at the store, a few of these items happen to 'fall' into your cart it would be greatly appreciated.

### Menu-

- Black Forest Cupcakes
- German Chocolate Cupcakes
- Apple Strudel
- Coffee

### Request for ingredients:


- cake mixes
- frozen puff pastry
- coffee cup w/lids
- eggs
- apples
- plastic forks
- vegetable oil
- raisins
- Napkins
- cherry pie filling
- pecan sandies cookies
- paper plates
- cream cheese
- XXX sugar
- whipping cream
- shredded coconut
- brown sugar
- butter

Check with Cathy Otto for an updated list or to volunteer to help in the project.



# Upcoming Events

## October

- 1 Oktoberfest
- 6 Women's Fellowship/Missions & Outreach, Christian Ed.
- 13 Community Meal Steering Committee
- 18 Family Potluck 
- 19 Trustees
- 20 Diaconate
- 25 Salad Luncheon 
- 30 June Jans Concert

## November

- 3 Women's Fellowship/Christian Ed
- 10 Community Meal Steering Committee
- 15 Family Potluck 
- 16 Trustees
- 17 Diaconate
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Pie Sales



- 2 Dale LaBelle
- 3 Amallia Kassuba
- 8 Cyndie Cole
- 11 Larry Pratt & Louanne Spearman
- 13 Megan Montgomery
- 14 Gage Boughner
- 14 Teig Swanker
- 17 Charles Falk
- 18 Brandy Thompson
- 19 Carol Leser
- 20 George Lienerth
- 25 Judy Dunn

- 14 Duane and Dawn Detzler
- 20 Larry and Evelyn Pratt
- 27 Brett and Sue Roundy

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.



# September 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study 10am <b>Women's Fellowship</b> 11:15 *SOS 6pm Christian Ed. 6pm	2 Chat/ Susan 10-noon  Community Meal 5-6:30pm	3
4 Communion Worship 10am	5	6	<b>7 BJ's Breakfast 8am</b>  Youth Group 6-8pm Choir 7pm	8 Bible Study 10am C M Steering 1pm	9 Chat/ Susan 10-noon  Community Meal 5-6:30pm	10
11 Loose Change Worship 10am Sunday School Rally  Crop Walk 2pm	12	13	<b>14 BJ's Breakfast 8am</b> Rummage Sale Set-up  Youth Choir 4-5pm Choir 7pm	15 Bible Study 10am  Diaconate 4pm *SOS 6pm	16  Rummage Sale  Community Meal 5-6:30pm	17  Rummage Sale
18 Reading of the Covenant Worship 10am	19	20	<b>21 BJ's Breakfast 8am</b> Trustee Meeting 8:30  Youth Group 6-8pm Choir 7pm	22 Bible Study 10am	23 Chat/ Susan 10-noon  Community Meal 5-6:30pm	24
25 Reading of the Statement of Faith Worship 10am Stewardship Sunday Mission Moment	26	27 Salad Luncheon 11:30-1	<b>28 BJ's Breakfast 8am</b>  Youth Choir 4-5pm Choir 7pm	29 Bible Study 10am	30 Chat/ Susan 10-noon Oktoberfest  Community Meal 5-6:30pm	

\*Science of Spirit is a meditation group lead by Elizabeth Trefoil

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First Congregational Church  
218 W Second  
Gaylord, MI 49735

