

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Gaylord

November 2017

We aim to embrace people at every age and ability level and help them become the most loving version of themselves possible.

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First Congregational United
Church of Christ
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10:00 am - noon or by appointment

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Church Service: Sunday: 10:00 am

As we flip our calendars to November, it's hard to believe that another fall is in the rearview mirror and the holiday season is right around the corner! Before we move forward, let's take just a moment to look back in gratitude and celebration.

Our fall at First Congregational UCC of Gaylord will forever be remembered as a season when we made a significant difference in the fight against hunger. As we celebrated in worship on October 29, we completely restocked the Otsego County Food Pantry, raised over \$2000 through the CROP Walk, got all our kids involved in the Friday Community Meal ministry, and heightened the awareness of everyone in our family of faith where hunger is concerned.

As we move forward into November and December, it is time for us to shift our focus to another group of God's children in need of our love and support: the elderly. Holidays are a particularly difficult time for our elderly brothers and sisters. With families so spread out and busier than ever, many grandparents and great-grandparents are often left to fend for themselves. Still others, including a handful of families in our own congregation, suddenly find themselves parenting their grandkids on a full-time basis during their hard-earned retirement years.

Our scriptures have a lot to say about the importance of caring and providing for the elders of our society, whether they are our relatives or not. Job told us that, "wisdom is with the aged," and that "with long life comes understanding." Deuteronomy notes that if we "ask our elders, they will always be able to teach and guide us." And yet, even in the Bible we can't help but notice the human tendency to neglect or even push aside the elderly in our midst. The great King David, himself, cried out in Psalm 71, "Do not cast me off in my old age."

There is no denying that American society has come to worship its youth and disregard its elders. Why is it that other cultures, in places like Europe and Asia, seem to do a much better job than we do of honoring, valuing, and serving their elderly? James, the brother of Jesus reminded us, in no uncertain terms, that "true religion is this: to take care of the elderly, the widow, and the orphan." (James 1:27)

In the months of November and December, we will explore the ways that we can better practice what our Lord's brother called "true religion." On December 3 we will welcome to our pulpit Dona Wishart, the Director of Otsego County's Council on Aging. She will be a fantastic resource for us, as we seek to be a congregation who cares, who seeks to bring to fruition God's promise that came to us through Isaiah: "Even to your old age and gray hairs, I will sustain you. I am He who made you and will carry you." (Isaiah 46:4)

As was the case with our previous focus on hunger, during our two months of focusing on the elderly, we will provide both food for thought and food for action. We will balance what we learn about the elderly in our lives with opportunities for all of us to make a positive difference in their lives. In the spirit of actions speaking louder than words, I'd encourage all of you think of any older folks you know in your neighborhood or in other organizations you serve and invite them to come to worship with you during these next 8 weeks. Maybe they'd like to come to our annual December potluck with Santa or to our Children's Christmas Play.

Our church family is such a welcoming bunch. Let's do what we can this holiday season to see that the elderly in our community are "sustained" and "carried" in all the ways Isaiah imagined. Amen!

Annual Meeting Wrap Up

Thanks to all of you who voted in our annual meeting October 15 and 22. You overwhelmingly affirmed our bylaw changes and our terrific new slate of officers and ministry teams. This combination of actions puts us in a fantastic position to grow even more in 2018 than we did in 2017. Here, once again, is the list of people who will serve as your leaders in the coming year:

Officers for 2018

Moderator: Rokko Jans

Clerk / Assistant Moderator: Doreen Dobosy

Financial Secretary: Rod Anderson, Assistant: Lori Ferguson

Treasurer: Joel Sietsma, Assistant: Evelyn Pratt

Ministry Team Participants for 2018

Council

Returning: Rokko Jans, Todd Chwatun

New: Doreen Dobosy, Stephanie Kalember, Mischelle Stone

Plus one delegate each from Reaching In & Reaching Out

Trustees

Returning: Todd Chwatun (chair), Don Storing, George Lienerth, Evelyn Pratt

New: Rod Anderson, Joel Sietsma

Reaching In

Returning: Kay Boughner (chair), Helen Mate, Helen Crandall, Mardee Storing

New: Miriam Hollar, Steve Ferguson, Brenda Brummel

Reaching Out

Returning: Cathy Otto, Roger Brummel, Margaret Hellenberg, Louanne Spearman, Mona Viviano

New: Jeff Kalember, Paul Kaczanowski, Vicky Rigney

(Chair to be determined)

(Reaching In and Reaching Out teams will identify a Council participant meeting term limit requirements per bylaws)

Thanks to all the people listed above for stepping up to serve as our leaders in 2018. These dedicated volunteers do so much to make our congregation run smoothly. May the rest of us pray for them, help them in any way that we can, and remember to thank them for doing such important work on our behalf.

What I've been reading... *Paul McCartney – A Life by Norman Phillip*

I've always been a huge Beatles fan! I've read everything I can about the Fab Four and never seem to tire of the stories of their journey. Norman Phillip gives us an incredibly thorough look at Paul's life, from his early days as a motherless child in a very humble working class neighborhood in Liverpool, to his time at the absolute peak of rock-n-roll stardom. It's a long journey, nearly 800 pages, but "The Long and Winding Road" of Paul's life makes it well worth the trip.

What I've been watching... *This is Us – NBC, Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m.*

I'm not a big TV watcher – except for news and sports – but I recently jumped on the bandwagon of this show, and I am so glad I did! Now in its second season, This is Us is the most well-written and well-acted show I've seen in over a decade! Don't simply start watching it Tuesdays at nine; you'll be lost without going back to watch Season 1, which you can get at the local video store or online. This show focuses on one family, moving back and forth between the present and the past. It's truly amazing!

Have you visited our Web Page and our Facebook Page recently?

Thanks to Brenda Brummel, Lori Ferguson, and several other of our tech-savvy participants, we have begun to put more and more of the great things going on in our church family online. While we want as many of our participants as possible to utilize this convenient and cost-efficient way of communicating, we also want to urge you to share those two web addresses with all your friends who are not connected to our family of faith.

Did you know that people all over the world can listen to our Sunday services and sermons on our website! They can read and download written versions of the sermons as well! Sharing some of the great things that are going on around here with others, simply by giving them these two addresses, is one of the best ways to help our church grow. You can help! Bookmark these two addresses on your computer and then share the links with your spiritually-minded friends. Thank you!

www.firstuccgaylord.org

www.facebook.com/firstuccgaylord



Kidz on a Mission

Kidz on a Mission has had another really busy month. Thanks to all the parents and helpers who put up with my scheduling! We taught the School of Love, both prepared and served the Community Meal, had a fun filled Halloween Party, put on an incredible fund raiser called Paint and Sip, traveled to Newberry, MI to help with God's Country Cooperative Parish and ended the month with a Baked Potato Lunch.

Next month, we plan to take it a little easier as Fall Sports wind down and some of our members have major parts in the Fall Musical, The Adams Family, at the High School. However, we will be back in December with our annual trek to Detroit to work at One Stop Shop, the Christmas pageant, Cookies and Creches and cookies for those who work on Christmas Eve. Thank you so much for all of your support. We couldn't do all that we do without your support!

Brenda Brummel

with help from Lori and Steve Ferguson and Miss Sue



Announcements:

December Newsletter

Please email any content and/or announcements you'd like in the December newsletter to office@firstuccgaylord.org by Monday November 20th.

New Website

Please take a look at the new church website: www.firstuccgaylord.org

Contact Brenda Brummel if you have comments or would like to contribute something to the website. Pictures are always appreciated!

Parents of Kidz on a Mission and School of Love Children

The entire congregation will be going to The Brook Retirement Home at 10:00am on Sunday, November 12th. Service will be held at the retirement home. The children will be putting on a short program. We will be sending home permission slips that must be signed if you'd like your child/ren to participate.

Red Kettle Campaign

Please join us on November 8th from 11:30am-1:00pm for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign kick-off! We will be providing a "soup kitchen" style luncheon in the Parish house. The lunch is on a donation basis. Hope to see you there!

Angel Tree Program

As the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, they provide us with the opportunity to share the many blessings God has given to us to help others in need. Beginning Nov 5th, an Angel Tree will appear in the Parish Hall where you may choose an angel or two to provide clothing to a child in need. Please return your purchases by Nov 19th and they will be picked up on Nov. 20th. Please do not wrap and be sure to include the angel with the clothing.



November Schedule

DATE	REACHING IN	LITURGIST	USHER/GREETER	COFFEE HOUR
November 5	Kay Boughner	Leila Jeanne Greer	Don & Mardee Storing	Cathy Otto
November 12	Kay Boughner	NEEDED	Joe & Lani English	Chuck & Judy Falk
November 19	Kay Boughner	Leila Jeanne Greer	Louanne Spearman	John & Margaret Hellenberg
November 26	Kay Boughner	Leila Jeanne Greer	Louanne Spearman & Cathy Otto	Doreen Dobosy, Lori Ferguson, & Alex Shirley
Month of November	SCHOOL OF LOVE	FLOWERS		
	Doreen Dobosy	Gloria House		

November Birthdays

- 7 Al Davis
- 10 AriaH House
- 11 Liz Marks
- 18 Zephania Boughner
- 18 Andrew Kalember
- 20 Cleveann Wolf
- 20 Keelin English
- 30 Mona Viviano



November Anniversaries

- 3 Chuck & Judy Falk
- 10 Paul & Marilyn Kaczanowski
- 28 Jeff and Stephanie Kalember

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 11a Bible Study 12:15p Fellowship 1p Reaching Out	3 5p Community Meal 7p First Fridays Coffe House	4
5 All Saints	6	7	8	9 9:30a Trustees 11a Bible Study	10 5p Community Meal	11 10a UNA Meeting
12	13	14	15 1p Church Book Club	16 9:30a Council Meeting 11a Bible Study 12:15p Reaching In	17 5p Community Meal	18
19	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24 5p Community Meal	25
26	27	28	29	30 11a Bible Study		

