

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Gaylord

July 2019

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

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Church of Christ
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Church Service: Sunday: 10:00 am

From Your Moderator -

In the last several years, our church has had a lot of practice “taking care of itself,” and we’ve proved to be quite good at it! We successfully supplied the pulpit from within the congregation during Pastor Susan’s sabbatical and during the transition after her retirement. The shift from a full-time to part-time pastor that took place during her tenure, and throughout Pastor Toby’s leadership, gave further opportunities for members of our church community to lead worship, sharing insights from their spiritual journeys that have proved meaningful to all of us.

Many churches (including our own, during previous transitions) have made use of an interim pastor while the “search and call” process unfolds. If the interview process is lengthy before we find the right fit for us, and handling weekly worship becomes too burdensome, this route is available to us as well; the Michigan UCC conference has several talented interim pastors on its roster. Such a minister is ineligible to become a “settled” or “permanent” pastor but can supply continuity for a church as it awaits the start of a new chapter. Should our council determine an interim pastor is necessary at some point, we will gratefully accept the assistance of our conference, which has been steadfast in supporting us throughout our transition. But, at least in the foreseeable future, this step will be unneeded, as our Sunday worship is completely locked in place for the next two months!

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From Your Moderator Continued...

A major blessing for our church has been the leadership shown by Miriam Hollar, a member of our congregation who leads the Reaching In Team—the committee whose duties include planning our Sunday services. Miriam is an ordained “Certified Ruling Elder” of the Presbyterian Church, with which the UCC shares reciprocal privileges. She has been granted permission by our conference to conduct the Sacrament of Communion for our church through 2019 (as well as funerals, baptisms, and weddings). She will fill some “preaching” slots, along with myself, Don Storing, Steve Ferguson, Joe Wambold, Mary Fox, Brenda Brummel, and other guest speakers. We recently had a powerful address given by Don’s brother, Ron. If you missed it, I encourage you to go to our website where most sermons are posted in audio and/or written form (firstuccgaylord.org). Joanna, Melissa, Harrison, Paul Balliet, the Hotellings, our Kidz on Key group, and many others will continue to assist me in the weeks ahead with supplying special music for our services.

Are you interested in participating as a speaker or musician? Just let Miriam or me know (and remember that you would not be required to handle all parts of the service, as greetings, liturgy, prayers, childrens’ message, etc., are easily handled by others).

Our theme for the summer is being “A Church For All People,” and our services will look at this issue in various ways. As we continue our prayers to find the right pastor to lead us into the future, we can include prayers of gratitude that God has equipped us to so capably take care of ourselves during this transition.

KIDZ ON A MISSION

Summer Sunday Fun!

During the summer months, our School of Love and Kidz on a Mission usually do not meet, but we have decided to continue with classes for School of Love and to a limited extent Kidz on a Mission.

What will this involve?

On the First and Third Sunday, the School of Love will meet to watch video lessons, sing, have snacks, and do a craft. On the Second Sunday, all the youth will join the Congregation for the outdoor service. On the Fourth Sunday, the Kidz on a Mission and the School of Love will join to have a special lesson – off site.

Come and join the fun! If you have questions or would like to help, please contact July's leader, Mary Fox.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!



~ Ministry Opportunities ~

WANTED:

We are looking for an individual willing to help track and acknowledge memorial gifts. If you have any interest, please contact the office or let Mary Sanders know!

Have you ever wanted to preach, write a prayer or offer something else special for worship? The Reaching In Team is organizing the worship schedule until we have a new pastor and would love your help! Our theme for the next three months is “A Church for All People” though we can work most offerings in to the theme even if the offering is not directly related. Please contact Miriam Hollar at miriam.hollar@gmail.com if you wish to contribute your time and talents to worship.



Person of the Month

Bill Dely

Most people have gone through both good and bad times in their life, and Bill Dely's had more than his share of adversity. The most devastating crisis occurred a few years ago when his wife of 47 years died. Their daughter and only child had a troubled adulthood and passed away in 2014.

"Six months after my wife, Virginia, died I got cancer," he said. "I felt like it was time to check out - I felt like a fish out of water. I prayed, but it wasn't the prayers that I prayed by rote in the Stephen Ministry. I prayed from the deepest depths of my heart. That's when the Holy Spirit came in. Where I am now, I'm fully aware of the Holy Spirit."

Bill's life has improved since then, but the adversity may have begun with his turbulent childhood.

"I was born in Detroit, but my biological father kept moving us around," Bill said. "I went to school after school. Things got better when my mother married my stepfather when I was 10. He adopted me and I took his last name."

Because of the earlier disruptions in his schooling, although his life was more stable, he was 17 in the 10th grade and didn't particularly like school. He decided to join the Navy.

"The Navy was my stepfather's family tradition," Bill said. "I talked my mother into signing permission and I enlisted in 1952, four years active and four years inactive. I traveled everywhere - the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Caribbean."

Bill married his first wife right out of the service. She was 18 and he was 24. They had three children, but the couple experienced the devastation of one of them being stillborn. Eventually his wife left Bill, another devastation in his life.

"I believed people were married for life," he said. "I was pretty upset with the female population."

It wasn't too much later that he met Virginia and she provided Bill a stable married life until her death. His work life was also successful. The skills he learned aboard ship in the Navy enabled him to become a power plant manager and classes he took at community colleges enabled him to rise to chief power plant manager.

"I worked for the State of Michigan, an osteopathic hospital and, GM (General Motors)," he said. "I left GM, but returned and stayed 16 years until I retired."

He also was involved in his religion. "I'd always been a Missouri Synod Lutheran - a very conservative church," Bill said. "I joined the Stephen Ministry at the First Lutheran Church of Gladstone. Reluctantly, I joined the Ministry, but after two weeks they couldn't have gotten me out of there. In training we learned things - I can't explain. It was so spiritual and a turning point of my life."

After he retired, Bill and Virginia moved to the Upper Peninsula for three and a half years, then to Lewiston where his wife had a friend. Virginia passed away while in Lewiston.

Bill continued his Stephen Ministry, visiting with patients in McReynolds Hall, listening to them, praying with them and reading spiritual text to them. He also spent time on the internet.

"When my wife died I met a lot of women on the internet," he said. "I met Maxine on Plenty of Fish. She lived in Holland and had been a widow 20 years. She was a retired nurse and her husband was a doctor. I thought a long distance relationship would be difficult, but she said she would visit in the summer. She didn't show up."

Overwhelmed with grief over his wife and fear of the cancer, hopelessness overcame him and he felt it was time to check out. Then, his intense prayer from the depths of his being put him in touch with the Holy Spirit. Within a month he reconnected with Maxine.

“She saved my life,” Bill said. “We bought a house in Gaylord and lived together about a year. I didn’t feel right not being married. Maxine had been a member of the Congregational Church. We went in and talked to Toby (Pastor Jones) and I liked the things he said. He, Vicky Rigney, and Jessica (Benoit) where our witnesses when we got married. We joined the church in 2018.”

Bill is now cancer free and the couple have a full life. They enjoy playing euchre. Bill’s 12 year old Yorkie, Max, keeps them company. Bill also expresses his artistic side, painting in acrylic and oil, and playing the ukulele.

“Everybody has adversity in their lives and the Holy Spirit wants to help you,” Bill said. “You just have to open you mind. God uses our adversity to bring us closer to Him.”





European Trip...

Jackie and Anna Fry & Jeff and Harrison Kalember visited Europe recently with Gaylord High School Choir.

Alpenfest Parade

Come by church during the parade and support our Kidz on a Mission! They'll be out selling hot dogs, chips, and drinks!

It's the best deal in town!!!

Parade begins at noon on Saturday, July 13th!



Announcements

Nursery Available for Church Families

- You probably know that we invite children (preschool through sixth grades) to participate in our School of Love each Sunday immediately following the Children's Time. But did you know that we also have a nursery option available for younger children, birth through age four? Helen Mate has assembled a team of adult volunteers who are available to staff the nursery (located in the fellowship hall) which is now equipped with supplies they might need to care for little ones during our worship service. PLEASE help us get the word out for the benefit of any young families who might want to visit us.
- If you have an interest in being added to our team of nursery volunteers, please contact Helen Mate. Thank you, Helen, for coordinating this important ministry.
- Women's Fellowship has announced their Annual Rummage Sale dates! Please mark your calendars for September 13th and 14th. Start cleaning out your basements, closets, and garages!
- Save the Date! CROP Walk Sunday, 09/15/2019
 UNA Meeting in Alpena 09/21/2019 - come learn about UCC origin and heritage
- As most of you know, our congregation is one of many here in Gaylord that shares in the responsibility for manning the Food Pantry located in the United Way building. The pantry is open all five working days of the week between noon and two P.M. An average day is probably about five to six individuals who come in for food to feed themselves or their whole family. As you can imagine, the "customers" who visit the pantry are in pretty bad shape financially and probably more down in the dumps than the vast majority of us have every known or hopefully will ever know. It is our privilege to serve these people and treat them as we would expect to be treated if we were in their situation. It has been my job for the past several months to convince people to volunteer as helpers and so far, three people, Mona Viviano, Margaret Hellenburg, and George Lienerth have been very helpful in allowing us to contribute to the Pantry's mission. We actually have two people from St. Mary's who have been helping us on our designated days, Ron and Sally Nowak. Jill Brazelton has also done a ton for us at the pantry, so let's be sure to thank them. Let's see if more of us can help. The more people willing to help, the more good we can do at the pantry. If you would like to help out and experience the "warm fuzzies" of helping someone truly in need, let me know. We have a few wonderfully committed regulars, but it would be even better if more folks from our congregation could share this important work. **Our next set of dates: August 5th & 6th** Thank you! -Don Storing.
- If you are not receiving regular emails from our office, please ask to be added to our email eblast list.



Prayer Requests

This month, the UNA is holding the Atlanta Church in prayer.



Prayer Requests

The Hauschild Family – as they grieve the loss of their 21-year-old son, Tag

The Boughner Family - as they grieve Scott's passing.

Mirja "Miss Sue" Hoeft – as she recovers from a fractured leg at McReynold's Hall.

Rev. Ginny Titus



See the prayer request / joys sheet in the Narthex to add to this list. If someone has been inadvertently omitted or if it is time to remove a name, please let the church office know.

If you know of any one who is in need of prayer or a pastoral visit at home or in the hospital, please contact the Church Office at or office@firstuccgaylord.org. The request will be passed on to the Reaching In Team which is taking on those responsibilities until we have a new pastor.

JULY SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	USHER/GREETER	COFFEE HOUR
July 7	Helen Crandall	Chuck Falk & Mardee Storing	Helen Mate
July 14	Helen Crandall	Cathy Otto & Shirley Matevia	Cathy Otto
July 21	Helen Crandall	Dave Henson & Margaret Hafner	The Hotelling Family
July 28	Helen Crandall	Joanie and Joel Sietsema	Rod & Sallie Anderson

Birthdays

- 3 *Joel Sietsema*
- 4 *Tony Fobar*
- 4 *Laura Hotelling*
- 16 *Lori Ferguson*
- 16 *Harrison Kalember*
- 18 *Whitney Rigney*
- 21 *Gloria House*
- 23 *Mardee Storing*
- 26 *Jackie Fry*
- 31 *Brianna Boughner*

Anniversaries

- 2 *Toby Jones & LJ Greer*
- 3 *Roger and Brenda Brummel*



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6
7 Worship, 10am	8	9 <i>Alpenfest Begins</i>	10	11	12	13 Alpenfest Parade 12pm Kidz on a Mission hot dog sale
14 Worship, 10am	15	16	17	18 Trustees, 9am Bible Study, 11am	19 Community Meal, 5pm	20
21 Worship, 10am	22	23 <i>Salad Luncheon 11:30am</i>	24 Church Book Club, 1:30pm	25 Bible Study, 11am	26 Community Meal, 5pm	27
28 Worship, 10am	29	30	31			